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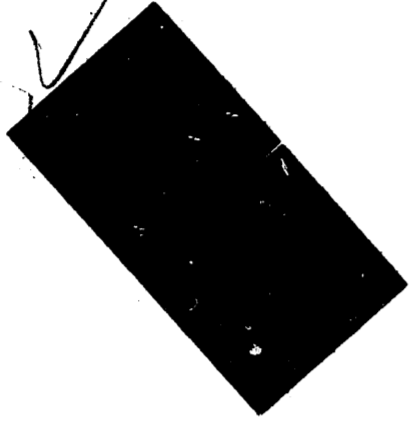
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EASTERN

**F.O.
371**

1947



PALESTINE

FILE NO. 48

pp. 10606 - 11641

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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**CLOSED
UNTIL**

1978

61832

1947
543

Palestine
EASTERN

E10606 / G 2
15 NOV 1947

E10606/48/3
31/6

Mr Rennie
H/Tman B
sounded
Sailed 10 Nov
Received 13 Nov.

S.S. Sinai (formerly S.S. Lucia)

Last Paper
E10543

References
E9442/48/C.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

61832

(Action completed)	(Index)
2F 4	WPH

Next Paper

(Minutes)
It has now been decided that this ship
should continue to be detained.
J 17/4

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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T.M. 33083.

10006
13 NOV

10th November, 1947.

Enter E 3
E

SECRET

Dear Evershed,

s.s. "SINAI" formerly s.s. "LUCIA".

I refer to Higham's letter of the 29th October (ref. 96021/47) to Heber Percy reviewing the question of the retention of this ship on the 'suspect' list.

There is yet another development in this case that should be known to the Working Party.

On the 11th October Squadron-Leader Fleming wrote to the Minister of Transport personally to obtain permission to tow the ship to Amsterdam (I think Rotterdam was intended) for dry-docking, etc. The reply was delayed pending the possibility of the official Committee reviewing this case but on the 31st October it was found necessary to reply setting out the statutory requirements for clearance of a ship to a foreign destination, also that in the circumstances there was not much hope that the suggested voyage for this ship would be allowed.

I have been asked to point out that although it would be possible for this Department to insist on a loadline assignment, some relaxation can be allowed, and is given when circumstances permit, for ships of foreign flag to proceed on request of the appropriate government representative to waive the requirement for a loadline assignment.

It is suggested that early consideration might be given to this particular case for guidance as to future action should further representations be received for permission for this ship to sail.

I am sending copies of this letter to Higham, Scherr, Cable and Dodds.

Yours sincerely,

Commander W. Evershed, R.N.,
Cabinet Offices, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group Fo

Class 371

Piece 61832

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 10676/48/31
E 10698
E 10737
E 10738

4

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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254

1947

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5

10741

17 NOV

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E10741/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

W. Holman
Bucharest

Dated

1352

Received in Registry

15, Nov
17

Illegal Jewish Immigration from Rumania
Reliable report states that Uruguayan visas are being
sold by Uruguayan representatives in Prague to a
Jewish Organisation in Rumania for a sum of
1,500,000 lei each. These Uruguayan visas are
not used for Uruguay but enable Great Britain
visa issuing authority to grant "passports" visas for
\$175 by against payment and without reference to
Home.

Last Paper.

10738.

References.

(Minutes.)

Referred to Montevideo
Either Prague or Montevideo should be
able to answer para. 3, unless South
American Dept. can help.

S.A. Dept.

18/xi

J. E. Cable
17/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
[Retel. Montevideo 174 Nov. 17]
8, 9, 9. P. (on E10696/84/31)
Nov. 18

Retel. Montevideo 175
Retel. Bucharest 1313
Prague 1225
Rome 374 Sainy

8, 9, 9. P. (on E10772/48/31)
Nov. 21

We have no info - about Uruguayan
representati - in Prague, but when the same
thing happened in Bucharest some time ago
the Uruguayan Ministry of F.A. told H.M.
Ambassador in Montevideo that their
representative in Bucharest had exceeded
his powers, as he shd have consulted his
govt - so probably the same thing applies
here. Montevideo will in any case know
the answer,

J. E. Cable
18/11

Telegram sent for Montevideo

J. E. Cable
18/11

(Action completed.)

J. E. Cable

(Index.)

J. E. Cable
24/9/47

Next Paper.

E 10760

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. E10741/48/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

~~Montevideo~~

Telegram.

No. 175

(Date) Nov. 18

Repeat to:—

Bucharest No. 1313

Prague No. 1225

Rome (Saring) No. 3748

En Clair.

Code?

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:—

I.I.P.

OUT FILE

F.O.,

194 .

Despatched 10 a.m.

1911

~~S. E. 2 in~~

Bucharest telegram no. 1352 ^{to F.O.} [of
15th November: Jewish illegal
immigration]

We have no information here
and would be grateful if you
would reply to query in paragraph
3 of Bucharest telegram under
reference.

[Signature]
18/11

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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OUT FILE

~~SECRET~~
En C

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MONTEVIDEO

No. 175

D. 12.10 a.m. 19th November, 1947

18th November, 1947
Repeated to Bucharest No. 1313,
Prague No. 1225,
Rome No. 894 SAVING,

Bucharest Telegram No. 1352 to Foreign Office [of
15th November: ~~SECRET~~ illegal immigration].

We have no information here and would be grateful
if you would reply to query in paragraph 5 of Bucharest
telegram under reference.

uuuuu

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

8

Mr. Holman.
No. 1352.

D. 12. 3. a.m. 15th November
1947.

15th November 1947.

R. 1. 50. p.m. 15th November
1947.

Repeated to Prague,
Rome.

10741
17 NOV

SECRET

Illegal Jewish emigration from Roumania.

A reliable report states that Uruguayan visas are being sold by Uruguayan representative in Prague to a Jewish Organisation in Roumania for a sum of 1,500,000 lei each.

2. These Uruguayan visas are not used for Uruguay but enable local Italian visa-issuing authority to grant "transit" visas for Italy against payment and without reference to Rome.

3. I am endeavouring to get concrete evidence but meanwhile I am anxious to know whether there is a Uruguayan representative in Prague and whether he is authorised to issue visas without reference to his Government.

4. The traffic is assuming very large proportions and the majority of these "emigrants" go to Austria and Italy. Amongst them are known to be many undesirables from a political point of view.

Foreign Office please repeat Prague Rome as my telegrams Nos. 57 and 23 respectively.

[Repeated to Prague and Rome.]

.....

NOV 1947
XXIX
17

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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254

1947

E

PALESTINE

10:00

18 NOV

9

Registry Number

E10740/48/31

FROM

J Higham

No.

Colonial Office

Dated

76021/48/21

Received in Registry

to Mr. Beith
14.11.47
18

Illegal Immigrants, U.N. Resolutions

Anti Report Social Committee approved 33-1 resolution inviting member states not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in promoting or operating illegal immigration, or activities designed to promote same. (See attached 30. Check that this resolution is being used in representation to foreign countries re Palestinian problem)

Last Paper.

10741

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Higham. 80
from Mr. Cable
✓ Nov 25
copy. Entered Cab Off
✓ Nov 26
apt. Blamires
Angora
Athens
Belgrade
Brussels
PTO

(Action completed.)

J.E.M. 26/11

(Index.)

29/11/47

Next Paper.

10772

(Minutes.)

Eastern Dept. would be grateful for the comments of U.N. (Econ. & Soc.) Dept.

J. Cable
(C.J.E. CABLE)
18/11

While we have no figures of the actual voting, it is true that the General Assembly did pass this resolution which was a compromise resolution in which we, the Arabs the Indians and the Slavs all had a hand. We inserted the clause about illegal immigration in place of a vaguely-worded paragraph about "immigration likely to impair friendly relations between nations" which might be interpreted as giving countries of origin the right to interfere with the resettlement abroad of their displaced nationals. We and the Arabs both thought that the new resolution would be a useful stick to beat the Zionists and their agents with and to use against the Panamanians, Roumanians etc.

A.W. Wilkinson 20
A.W. WILKINSON 11

We are considering the publication of a comprehensive survey of Jewish illegal immigration in order to reinforce and illustrate this resolution. We should in any case let our Missions abroad know
32003 F.O.P.
1/11

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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of it. Draft to branches in all countries concerned and to Mr. Higgins.

Palmer
(S. E. CABLE)

21/11

22/11

10

Bucharest
Paris
Copenhagen
Lisbon
Madrid
Oslo
Panama
Paris
Rome
San Francisco
Tokyo
Stockholm
Lima
Washington

also U.K. Dept. New York. Nov. 25

General:-

Algiers
Barcelona
Rabat
Kairouan

Nov 26

8/ (with letter above) Nov. 25
Reboul M15

Overhead. Cab. Off.

✓ Nov 26

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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76021/46A/47

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

11 1/2
14th November, 1947.

10700
13 NOV

My dear John

Reuter reports that on Tuesday the Social Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations approved by 33 votes to 1 a resolution inviting Member States not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organisations which are engaged in promoting or operating illegal immigration, or activities designed to promote illegal immigration.

The resolution also recommended Member Nations to adopt urgent measures for the early return of repatriable refugees and displaced persons to their countries of origin, and for settling a fair share of non-repatriable refugees in their own territories.

I do not imagine that the Social Committee had in mind illegal immigration to Palestine when they considered this resolution. I should however be glad to know whether the Foreign Office think that this resolution is going to be of any use to us in our representations to foreign countries regarding Palestinian traffic.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Evershed

Yours.

John Higham

(J.D. Higham)

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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FO 371 / 61832

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(S9854) W.14086/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E.W.Ltd. Gp. 685

Registry
No. E 10760/48/31

OUT FILE

24a-
21

Top Secret.
Secret
Confidential.
Restricted
Open ✓

J.E.C.

+ | C

12
25/11

Draft.

J.D.
Mr. Higham
c.o.
from
J.E.
Mr. Gable

2 drafts
U.N. (Gen. & Sec.) Dept
first

copy to:
Mr. Gresham
Cabinet Office

RECEIVED IN	
DIVISION	
24 NOV 1947	
SENT TO	24/11
TYPE	
RESPATCHED	

Will you please refer to your letter to Beith no. 76021/46A/47 of the 14th November about an United Nations resolution on illegal immigration.

2. On the 17th November a resolution was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations of which the following was the relevant passage:

(A) "The General Assembly invites Member States not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in the promoting or operating of illegal immigration or any activities designed to promote illegal immigration."

This clause was inserted at our instigation and for the reasons in the hope that we might

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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might be able to make use of it in our representations to foreign countries.

3. As I told you on the telephone, we are thinking of publicizing the survey on the organization of Jewish illegal immigration prepared as a draft reply to Mr. Shepherd's parliamentary question. If this is authorized, we should use it to reinforce and call attention to the United Nations resolution.

4. We are, of course, brass bringing this resolution to the attention of H.M. Representatives in all countries concerned with this problem.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Evered.

J 22/11

13

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 / 61832

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OUT FILE

14
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

25th November, 1947.

(E 10760/48/31)

RESTRICTED

Dear Higham,

Will you please refer to your letter to Beith No. 76021/46A/47 of the 14th November about an United Nations resolution on illegal immigration.

2. On the 17th November a resolution was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, of which the following was the relevant passage:

"The General Assembly invites Member States not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in the promoting or operating of illegal immigration or any activities designed to promote illegal immigration."

This clause was inserted at our instigation in the hope that we might be able to make use of it in our representations to foreign countries.

3. As I told you on the telephone, we are thinking of publicizing the survey on the organisation of Jewish illegal immigration prepared as a draft reply to Mr. Shepherd's parliamentary question. If this is authorized, we should use it to reinforce and call attention to the United Nations resolution.

We are/

H. D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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15

3. We are, of course, bringing this resolution to the attention of His Majesty's Representatives in all countries concerned with this problem.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Evershed.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J. B. Cable)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

Registry No. L10760/43/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

J.E.C.

19 drafts + 8 C 16

OUT FILE 25 Nov.

Draft.

To Embassies at:

Dear Embassy,

- Angora
- Athens
- Belgrade
- Brussels
- Bucharest
- Cairo
- Copenhagen
- The Hague
- Lisbon
- Madrid
- Oslo
- Panama
- Paris
- Rome
- San Jose
- Sofia
- Stockholm
- Tegucigalpa
- Washington

~~In your representations on the subject of Jewish~~
 you may find it useful, when making representations about Jewish illegal immigrations to the Govt. to which you are accredited, to refer to the resolution on this subject passed on the 17th November by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

U.N. (E.A.S.)
 Dipl.
 first

2. The following is the relevant clause:

[Here insert from (A) to (B) in draft to Mr. Higham]

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

J 22/11

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copies to:

U.S. Del. to U.N. New York

Consulates-General at:

- Algiers
- ~~Bombay~~
- Barcelona
- ~~Frankfurt~~
- ~~Nice~~
- Rabat
- Tunis

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25 NOV 1947	
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C.O.
 M.I.5 } usual names
 Cabinet Office }

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OUT FILE

17

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

(E 10760/48/31)
RESTRICTED

25th November, 1947.

Dear Chancery,

You may find it useful, when making representations about Jewish illegal immigration to the Government to which you are accredited, to refer to the resolution on this subject passed on the 17th November by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The following is the relevant clause:

"The General Assembly invites Member States not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in the promoting or operating of illegal immigration or any activities designed to promote illegal immigration."

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Angora.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
The Hague.

The Chancery,
British Legation
San Jose.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Athens.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Lisbon.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Sofia.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Belgrade.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Madrid.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Stockholm.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Brussels.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Cairo.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Tegucigalpa.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Bucharest.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Panama.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Washington.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Cairo.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Paris.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Copenhagen.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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216

1947

E

18

10772

PALESTINE

18 NOV

Registry Number E10772/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM Sir H. Mook

No. Vienna

Dated 1026

Received in Registry 29 Oct

29

Illegal Immigration of Jews via Austria. After Vienna tel 835 (E10772/10/48) Receipt indicates intent to a tightening up of French control of illegal Jewish immigration through their zone of Austria. General CHERRIERE has however pointed out that their task would be made very much easier if the US authorities would cooperate. He suggested that a meeting should be held - Vienna between members of the occupying authorities.

Last Paper. E10760

References 10209/84/1, 9800/84/1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel) Vienna 1026
New 4
In tel.
Report to Paris 2308
Runk 2299
Wim 11227
Oct. 29
P10

(Action completed.)

(Index)

[Signature]

[Signature]

Next Paper. 10773

10773

[Signature]

(Minutes.)

I am rather inclined to agree with Vienna's estimate of the possible results of a tripartite meeting on the subject. We do not want to lose the benefits gained by the new French attitude for the sake of a dubious agreement with the Americans. Furthermore, it is by no means certain that Gen. Cherriere could rely on his Government's support against the Americans in any matter affecting Jews. We might, I suggest, point this out. J.H. tel. 30/10

Austrian Section 10/11
Eastern Dept first.

I think Eastern Dept have already answered this. C.B. [Signature] 31.x.

Perhaps the U.N. (Econ. & Soc.) Dept would first like to see E9800 and the action taken thereon. Vienna telegram 1026 was obviously sent before they had seen our telegram sent on that paper. I think we ought, however, to refer to them in our reply.

[Signature] (J.E. CABRE)

See minutes on E 9800. I have inserted a reference to other tel. 4/11

J.H. amended & sent.

[Signature] 3/11

27692 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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8, 99 P.

Nov. 21

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

Cypher/OTP

WR 3518
29 OCT. 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Mack.
No. 1026
29th October, 1947

D. 9.55 a.m. 29th October, 1947
R. 10.50 a.m. 29th October, 1947

10772
18 NOV

IMPORTANT
SECRET

Reference Austria telegram No. 855 and telegram No. 872
from High Commissioner.

Recent indications point to a tightening up of the French control of illegal Jewish movement through their zone of Austria. At the same time General Cherriere has pointed out that French ability to deal adequately with this movement would be facilitated if United States authorities [gps. undec. ?would co-operate].

2. He suggested that meeting be called in Vienna of competent British, United States and French representatives in order to discuss the problem. This suggestion was based on a slight misreading of Mr. Ruck's final report of September 9th, paragraph 8 a (i) which General Cherriere took to be a recommendation for such a meeting.

3. If you consider it desirable I am prepared to call a meeting as suggested by General Cherriere, but consider it possible that the Americans, by actively holding before the French their policy of doing nothing to hinder Jewish movement, will discourage the French from their present co-operative attitude.

k k k

SECRET

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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Registry
No. SECRET
NR 3515/10/48

OUT FILE

21

Despatched 10 ¹¹ ~~am~~ M.

Answered 30/10

Draft.

Vienna

Telegram.

No 1526 ✓

Date Nov. 11

Cypher

Sept No 2

Austrian Section
Earl's Sept 30
first

RECEIVED IN O.E.
6 NOV 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

SECRET

Your telegram No 1026 [of 29th October; Jewish illegal traffic] and my telegram No 1798 [of 25th October]

I agree that a tripartite meeting on this question might result in a deterioration rather than an amelioration of the present position and ~~it would~~ seem better tactics for you to continue to make such representations, as may be necessary to the U.S. authorities, without involving the aid of General Cherriere, whose Government may not be prepared to support him in any propos. measures designed to curb Jewish illegal traffic.

I leave it to you to take what action you deem best.

Answered H

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Reference: FO 371/51832

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OUT FILE

22

WR3515/10/48

Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO VIENNA

No. 1526
4th November, 1947. D. 10.00 a.m. 5th November, 1947

SECRET

Your telegram No. 1026 [of 29th October; Jewish illegal traffic] and my telegram No. 1498 [of 28th October].

I agree that a tripartite meeting on this question might result in a deterioration rather than an amelioration of the present position and I leave it to you to take what action you deem best.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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257

ASB

E

10773

18 NOV

23

1947

PALECTINE

Registry Number

E10773/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Per. N. Black

No.

Vienna

Dated

1055

Received in Registry

11 Nov

12

Illegal Jewish Immigration via Austria.

Refer Vienna tel 1026 (E10772/48/31). A tripartite meeting of Chief of Staff level has been fixed for Nov 17. The French and U.S. elements have agreed to draft agenda prepared by the British. There are indications that the U.S. element intends to be co-operative in the matter.

Last Paper.

E 10772

(Minutes.)

W. Wilkinson 13/11

References.

Eastern Dept - (who may care to take over these pp)

I agree that these papers should be 'E' and should receive I.I.P. distribution.

Jey 14/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Copied to CO.

8 9.2 p.
1 Nov 21

W.P.P.

(Action completed.)

J.T.M. 2/12

(Index.)

W.P.P. 29/9/48

Next Paper.

10794

27692 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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SECRET

p.w.
IN E

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

24

From. Paris.

WR 2600/10

No. T.O.O./16th Nov.

Date. 14-11-47.

Recd. 2008.

CYPHER C.T.P.

To. Foreign Office.

No. 1010.

Please pass following to Admiralty for Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

Begins:

To Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean information Admiralty.

From. B.N.A. Paris.

Following paraphrases Vienna telegram addressed Foreign Office information Paris, Rome, Washington, Jerusalem.

Begins:

Meeting of Chief of Staff level between British, French and United States arrange for November 17th. United States and French have agreed to British draft agenda and it appears probable that United States intends to be co-operative.

Ends.

2. Understand meeting is to discuss measures to combat flow of Jews into Italy from French and United States zones of Austria and into French zone from United States zone.

No T.O.O./16th Nov.

Passing action being taken to C. in C. Med. by War Registry under T.O.O. 161510.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
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D.B.

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Cypher/OTP

E 10773

18 NOV

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

WR
25

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Mack
No. 1055
11th November, 1947

D: 5.55 p.m. 11th November, 1947

R: 6.29 p.m. 11th November, 1947

Repeated to: Paris
Rome
Washington
Jerusalem

WR 3640

WR 371/10

SECRET

From High Commissioner. Vienna telegram No. 1026.

A tripartite meeting on Chief of Staff level has been fixed for November 17th.

2. French and United States elements agreed to draft agenda prepared by us. There are indications that United States element intends to be co-operative in the matter.

Foreign Office please repeat to Paris, Rome, Washington as my telegrams Nos. 47, 34, 246 respectively and to Jerusalem.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

G G G G

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

Registry Number

E10824/48/31

FROM

70 Minute

No.

111 Col 6

Dated

July 9

Received in Registry

Nov 19

Jewish Illegal Immigration

Discussions to "Alabama" case suggest it might possibly provide some useful arguments for Representatives in Foreign Countries on subject of Illegal Immigration and the supply of arms and funds for Jewish terrorists.

Last Paper.

10794

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Det. Lt. Col. Herman
Col. Off
from M. Beich.

Jan 31
COB Dated Feb 10

(Action completed.)

26/4
G.L.M. 19/11

(Index.)

17/5/47

Next Paper.

10893

(Minutes.)

J. 19/11

At their meeting this afternoon, the Inter-Departmental Working Party on Jewish illegal immigration considered reports from various sources suggesting that the organisers of Jewish illegal immigration were now turning their attention to the illicit import of arms and ammunition. The Working Party asked for information about our rights in international law to prevent the smuggling of munitions of war. The Admiralty have undertaken to examine the question of stopping or searching ships and the Foreign Office have been asked to consider whether any legal justification exists for asking foreign governments to prevent the export of arms to Palestine. The U.S. Govt. have recently placed a general embargo on the export of arms to "3203 F.O.P." "troubled areas", but there are, /of

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of course, many European countries able
to supply the Jews. As the latter
could probably pay in hard currency,
they should have little difficulty in
finding sellers.

Mr. Evans' minute in this paper,
while relevant, does not cover this particular
point and Eastern Dept would, therefore,
be ~~of~~ grateful for his advice.

Mr. Evans

Hubley
(S.E. CABLE)
17/12

I presume Mr Cable means until
we lay down the Mandate (planned
for May 15). After that we
shall have no special
responsibility.

H.S. Series
Dec. 18

It would be useful
to have attached pp's
such as those mentioned
by Mr. Evans in his
minute of 10 July, 1947.

I should also like
to know whether
Liberty & Treaty Dept
have any comments. Are
there any relevant international
agreements in force?

F. Vallat
F.A. VALLAT

20/12

/The

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The papers mentioned in Mr. Evans' minute do not appear to me to be directly relevant, since the point at issue was then the transport of Jews and not of arms. I have, however, attached them together with the ~~letter~~ ^{papers} referred to in the letter from the Admiralty which had just been received.

Library
Treaty Dept. *R.D.*
Mr. Vallat *all*

Foble
(S.E. CABLER)
23/12

~~The St. Germain Arms Traffic~~

I can find no international instrument in force on which we could base representations to foreign govts. to prevent the illicit export of arms to Palestine.

The St. Germain Arms Traffic Convention of 1919 (T.S. No. 12/1919) - copy attached - which would have been useful in the present connexion, never entered into force. It is true that the Protocol at the end (p. 69) declared that it would be contrary to the intention of the H.C.P.'s and to the spirit of the Convention, that pending its entry into force any C.P. should adopt any measure contrary to the provisions of the Convention; this Protocol, however, gave rise to certain difficulties owing to the attitude of

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of the U.S., and, in consequence, we, the Belgians, the French, the Italians and the Japanese came to an understanding by which it was agreed to apply the provisions of the Convention so far as concerned the prohibited zones specified in Art. 6. I will, if desired, make a closer examination into the present position in this respect, but I imagine that it would be difficult to make much of a case here - and then only in respect of those effective countries (I exclude Japan).

The Geneva Arms Traffic Convention of 1925 (Cmd. 3448) - copy also attached - was intended to fill the gap created by the non-entry into force of the 1919 Convention, but it suffered the same fate as the latter.

The L. of Nations Convention ^{of 1937} for the Prevention etc. of Terrorism (see text in W 21732/720/98/1937, attached) contained some useful provisions in addition to those specifically relating

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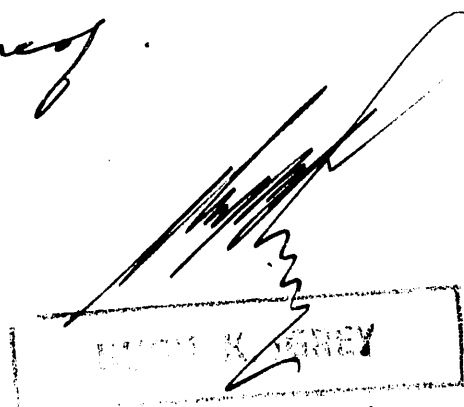
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Minutes.

31

relating to arms etc., but here again the Convention never entered into force (the U.K. was represented at the conference and signed the Final Act but not the Convention itself - which appears to have been ratified definitely only by India)

Although, therefore, it would not be possible to invoke these instruments on legal grounds, it is for consideration whether it might be worth calling attention to them as illustrative of the view taken by a large number of countries even if the latter, for various reasons, found it impossible to bind themselves to observe all the stipulations thereof.


ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR

30/12

There appear to be no treaties in force to which the U.K. is party and on which we could base representations to foreign Governments requiring them to prevent ~~the~~ traffic in arms from their territories to Palestine. I am inclined to think that there would not be much point in drawing the attention of States concerned to the Conventions of 1919, 1925 and 1937 referred to by Mr. Grey, except perhaps to Article 1 of the Convention of 1937, the drafting of which is significant in this connection (see below). I think the 1925 Convention was intended to supersede that of 1919, which was evidently regarded as "dead" (see the preamble of the

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former) and I very much doubt whether we could now rely on the terms of the Protocol of the 1919 Convention. However, if we are hard pressed for arguments on which to base any representations, it might just be worth asking Mr. Grey to investigate this point further.

In general, a State has no responsibility under international law to prevent and suppress subversive activities against foreign States on the part of private persons within its territory. On the other hand, it is generally recognised that States are under a legal duty to prevent and suppress such subversive activities as involve violence. It is true that in stating this rule, Oppenheim's International Law, 6th Edition, Vol. 1, page 260, refers only to "such subversive activity..... as assumes the form of armed hostile expeditions or attempts to commit common crimes against life or property"; but, in my opinion, though the unauthorised import of arms into Palestine does not perhaps, ~~in general~~, fall literally within these categories, the supplying of arms to terrorists and rebels, ~~who have not even obtained recognition as belligerents or insurgents~~, on the scale on which it is now being attempted, in that it substantially supports terrorist activities and promotes civil strife and acts of violence against persons ^{and} property, is clearly, in the present explosive state of the country, an activity within the rule of international law referred to by Oppenheim. In support of this contention reference may be made to Article 10 of the League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention & Punishment of Terrorism, which reads as follows:-

" The High Contracting Parties, reaffirming the principle of international law in virtue of which it is the duty of every State to refrain from any act designed to encourage terrorist activities directed against another State and to prevent the acts in which such activities take shape, undertake as hereinafter provided to prevent and punish activities of this nature and to collaborate for this purpose. "

Though this Convention has never come into force, it was formally adopted by the Final Act of the International Conference for the Suppression of Terrorism held at Geneva in 1937, ~~which this Final Act~~ was signed by a large number of countries. ~~the delegate of each one state.~~

My opinion therefore is that we have a firm basis in international law on which to make representations to foreign States, requiring them to take steps to prevent the large-scale export of arms from their territories to Palestine. In the event of any refusal or failure to take the necessary steps we should probably have good grounds on which, if desirable, to arraign the State concerned before the United Nations.

In my opinion we should be fully justified under international law, as a necessary measure/

(W 21732).

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Minutes.

measure of self-defence, in (1) stopping and searching on the high seas any vessel which we had very good reason to believe to be carrying arms and ammunition to Palestine and (2) seizing and diverting any vessel in fact doing so. But I must emphasize that, to be legitimate, ~~the~~^{such} interference with the vessel of a must be necessary to prevent an imminent danger and therefore; if practicable, the vessel's State should be given an opportunity itself to take the necessary preventive measures (See Oppenheim, 6th Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 265 - 271 and particularly footnote 1 to page 269). I agree with the Admiralty's interpretation of the Lord Chancellor's Cabinet Paper.

Joseph S Galt

Jaques
Leah 15/7

W.V.J. Evans
(W.V.J. Evans)
14th January, 1948.

Mr Beckett to see (particularly with reference to the interpretation of the Lord Chancellor's Cabinet paper referred to in the Admiralty letter and the last paragraph of the above minute. The paper is on E 12381)

Mr Fitzgerald is investigating questions relating to the Greek N. Pombeis. Some of his material comes the same ground as the earlier part of Mr Evans' minute. Mr Evans' papers there are also shown the minute to Mr Fitzgerald 15/7

Mr Fitzgerald.
I agree generally. The incidental sale of arms by private subjects in the ordinary way of commerce, or in the course of their usual business, is something which (outside some cases no legal duty to prevent (subject to the terms of particular Conventions), it is otherwise where the export of arms is specifically prohibited, for the express purpose of violent activity against a foreign State or part of it.
G. H. Mansfield P.T.O.

(in as part of campaign)

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Draft submitted

JB Jan 23


1. I have revised my note on the legal position to take in Mr Fitzmaurice's minute.
2. I take it that Palestine is included in territories of the Turkish Empire in Article 6(2) of the 1919 Convention? If so, I think the words "including Palestine" should be added after "prohibited zone" in line 2 of the second page of the draft letter.

WVE
26/1

The 1919 Convention, preceding the Treaty of Sevres, could not define the territories detached from Turkey, but Palestine was certainly included in "such continental parts of Asia as were included in the Turkish Empire on Aug. 4, 1914" (Art. 6 (3)).

As regards the legal Adviser's minute to be enclosed in the draft, may I suggest, in order not to give a wrong impression, the inclusion of a phrase saying that the ^{Suppression of} Convention seems to have been ratified by India alone?

Done
WVE
27/1.


27/1

See by Mr Evans.

L. C. L. Pymman
27/1

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Jewish Illegal Immigration.

It has occurred to me that the "Alabama" case might possibly provide some useful arguments for our representations to foreign countries on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration and the supply of arms and funds to Jewish terrorists.

110824
19 NOV

2. During the American civil war the United States authorities repeatedly requested H.M.G. to prevent the fitting out in British ports of armed cruisers for the Confederate forces. In many cases H.M.G. declined to take action on the following grounds:-

- (a) That there was no provisions in British law enabling action to be taken in such cases.
- (b) That the American authorities were unable to supply proof, and were merely asking us to act on suspicion.

Both these arguments are, of course, employed today by the United States, French and other governments in rejecting our requests for action against ships involved in the illegal immigration traffic, or against persons soliciting funds for the arming of Jewish terrorists. It is, therefore, interesting to note that the U.S. Government denied their validity, and that H.M.G. later admitted that their original contentions had been incorrect. The U.S. authorities maintained that deficiencies in the municipal law of Great Britain did not excuse His Majesty's Government from taking action against persons, who, within their jurisdiction, embarked on activities hostile to a friendly power, and quoted instances in which the United States law had been amended in order to prevent similar infringements of neutrality by U.S. citizens.

3. One interesting instance quoted by the American authorities was an amendment to the neutrality law passed to prevent U.S. citizens from aiding the Canadian rebels of 1838. At the request of the President, Congress then passed a temporary Act which provided for the seizure and detention of any vessel or vehicle, and of arms or munitions of war about to pass the frontier of the United States for any place within any foreign state or colony conterminous with the United States where the character of the vessel or vehicle, and the quantities of arms and munitions or other circumstances shall furnish probable cause to believe that the said vessel, etc. are intended to be employed by the owner or owners, or any other person or persons, with/

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with his or their privity in carrying on any military expedition or operation within such territory". The United States authorities also quote the case of the s.s. "Maury", which was arrested by the U.S. authorities at the request of the British Consul, who had grounds for suspecting that she might be employed as a commercial raider by the Russians during the Crimean war.

4. The fitting out of armed commercial raiders is a more obviously unfriendly act that the soliciting of funds to arm and equip terrorists, or the abetting of the sailing of illegal immigrant ships. On the other hand, the Confederate states had been recognised as a belligerent and therefore had definite legal rights, which Jewish terrorists and the organisers of the illegal immigrant traffic presumably do not possess. It seems to me that there are three ways in which we might make use of the precedent offered by the "Alabama" case:-

(a) If the "Alabama" precedent has any legal validity in this case, we might warn the U.S. Government that, where deaths or destruction of property in Palestine can be traced to arms or explosives supplied by U.S. citizens, we shall claim damages from the U.S. Government in the same way as they claimed damages from us for the degradations of the "Alabama" and her fellow raiders. It seems doubtful, however, whether this principle could be extended to illegal immigrant ships.

(b) If we have no grounds for legal action, we might suggest to the U.S. Government that the Act of 1838, quoted above, offers a precedent for the introduction of special legislation in the U.S. in order to prevent the activities of Ben Hecht and his associates.

(c) We might merely make use of the "Alabama" case for propaganda in the United States.

5. Perhaps Mr. Evans and North American Department would care to comment?

J. E. Cable
J. E. Cable.

July 9th, 1947.

Mr. Evans.
North American Department.

H. B. ...

There is no doubt that every state has a duty under international law to prevent persons within its territory from engaging in subversive activities against a foreign state which involve violence. But this duty

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17 NOV 1947
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19 NOV 1947

*It would probably be impossible to prove a sufficient connection between the U.S. citizen, the arms & explosives and the deaths & destruction of property.
WAG
10/7.*

P.S. I have taken the material for this minute from an American book: "The Alabama Claims" F.O. Library 5043.

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does not extend to the prevention of all injurious acts which a private person might commit against a foreign state and our difficulty has been to convince the United States and other foreign countries concerned that the particular activities within their territories relating to illegal immigration into Palestine etc of which we complain fall within the category of those acts which they are bound under international law to prevent. The difficulty as regards illegal immigration is that it does not as a rule directly involve violence and on other papers - I think on E 543 - at the beginning of this year I did make out a case to form the basis of representations to foreign governments that they should take steps to prevent it. The collection of funds to promote terrorist activities in Palestine is another matter and here I think we have a stronger case - See E 5840.

The opinion of Condert Brothers on E 5840 shows that there is legislation in force in the U.S. making punishable acts of private persons violating the obligations of the U.S. under the laws of nations. If we have a good case under international law for requiring the U.S. to prevent the acts of which we complain then the law to which Condert Brothers refer would seem to provide a

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Minutes.

sufficient basis for the prosecution of
the private individuals concerned. If we
have not a good case under international
law, then I think it is unlikely that we
shall be able to move the U.S. Government
to enact special legislation to help us.

W. V. Evans
10 July 1947.

I think that Mr. Cable makes an interesting
and useful case, but our fundamental problem in
this matter is to persuade the U.S. Government
to take a legalistic view of what to them is a
domestic political question. We may produce all
the international law in the books, and it will
count for little against the Jewish vote in the
next election.

F. B. A. RINDALL
(F.B.A. RINDALL)
11th July, 1947.

I think we might let News
Dept. see Mr Cable's interesting
minutes and the following
minutes. The facts might be
used by the more thoughtful
type of journalist for a
background article, which
would gain him credit for
credibility, at least.

News Dept.

JB July 31

We have kept this for some time
in the hope that we might be asked to
do something with it - perhaps a
letter from "stickmen" in the Times - but
it now seems unlikely - Adm. 7/4

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Admiralty,
S.W.1.

23 December, 1947.

Whitehall 9000.
Extension 808.

My dear Cable,

At the last meeting of the Working Party it was agreed that you and I should look into the action which could be taken against ships which may carry arms to Palestine. You will remember that you were going to cover the period before the arms were embarked in the ship and I was going to cover the period while they were on board.

2. I do not think I can do better than refer you to C.P.(46) 463 of the 18th December 1946 which is a Cabinet Paper by the Lord Chancellor dealing with the arrest and diversion of ships on the high seas. In the course of this paper the Lord Chancellor speaks of the carrying of arms and ammunition as a possible justification for the action then contemplated, viz. the arrest of illegal immigrant ships on the high seas. The reference is made in such a way as to show conclusively, I think, that there would be no objection to the arrest on the high seas as a measure of self-defence of ships carrying arms and ammunition. It is true that the Lord Chancellor says at the end of paragraph 2 that we should be unwise to attempt to rely on the presumed existence of a right of this kind; but he was thinking then of the use of this argument as a justification for something quite different, viz. the problem of coping with illegal immigration. I should not have thought that there could be any doubt about the carrying of arms as such which would in the circumstances now contemplated be a direct incitement to civil war in Palestine.

3. As your side of this problem is likely to be more complicated than ours, perhaps you would like, after consultation with your legal adviser, to include a passage about the legal position on board in your paper.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to Higham and Evershed.

Yours ever,

J.C. Dods.

J.E. Cable, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

GCBD/PJF/C.C.B.11.

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Draft. to:
Lt.Col. SHERMAN,
Cabinet Office.

Evans

(I assume that we are only concerned about the period during which we continue to exercise the mandate.)

Mr Evans
Library

J.S. Davis
Jan 23

Please see my further remarks

L.P.L. Pagan
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My dear Sherman,

Will you please refer to Dodds' letter of December 23rd to Cable (of which a copy was sent to Evershed) about the action which could be taken to prevent ships carrying arms to Palestine.

I can begin by saying that our Legal Adviser agrees with the Admiralty's interpretation of the Lord Chancellor's Cabinet Paper, to which Dodds refers. As a matter of fact I seem to recall that the Lord Chancellor later modified his ruling in such a way as to permit His Majesty's ships to stop and search illegal immigrant ships outside territorial waters, at a meeting held in his room early this year. By that time

however Ministers had decided that they did not wish, for political reasons, to stop ships in this way.

As regards the possibility of finding in international instruments a basis for representations to foreign Governments to prevent the illicit export of arms to Palestine we can only point to the following instruments, none of which provides a firm basis. The Saint-Germain Arms Traffic Convention of 1919, which would have been useful, ~~was~~ never entered into force. The Protocol at the end of this Convention declared that it would be contrary to the intention of the High Contracting Parties and to the spirit of the Convention that pending its entry into force any Contracting Party should adopt any measure contrary to the provisions of the Convention; but this

/ Protocol

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(38854) WL14696/147 75,000 6/47 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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gave rise to certain difficulties owing to the attitude of the United States and consequently we, the Belgians, the French, the Italians and the Japanese came to an understanding by which it was agreed to apply the provisions of the Convention so far as concerned certain prohibited zones, ~~including Palestine~~ ^{including Palestine} ~~The~~ Geneva Arms Traffic Convention of 1925, which was ~~apparently intended to supersede the above-mentioned Convention, but~~ ^{but this} ~~and never came into force~~ suffered the same fate as its predecessor. The League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention of Terrorism contained some useful provisions in addition to those specifically relating to arms, but here again the Convention never entered into force. None of these instruments is therefore of much use to us, ~~but if we are hard-pressed for arguments on which to base any representations which we may wish to make to foreign Governments it might possibly be worth looking further into this matter.~~

It is very doubtful whether this could now be relied on but if we are hard-pressed for arguments on which to base representations to any of the foreign governments concerned we will look into the point further. The gap left by the Convention of 1919 not coming into force led to the discussing up of the

~~I attach an extract from a minute by one of our Legal Advisers covering the general legal basis on which we might build our representations, which is outlined in the attached extract from~~

~~J. G. S. BEITH,
22nd January, 1948.~~

a minute by one of our Legal Advisers.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 43

30th January, 1948.

(E 10824/48/31)

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My dear Sherman,

Will you please refer to Dodds' letter of 23rd December to Cable (of which a copy was sent to Evershed) about the action which could be taken to prevent ships carrying arms to Palestine. (I assume that we are only concerned about the period during which we continue to exercise the mandate).

I can begin by saying that our Legal Adviser agrees with the Admiralty's interpretation of the Lord Chancellor's Cabinet Paper, to which Dodds refers. As a matter of fact I seem to recall that the Lord Chancellor later modified his ruling at a meeting held in his room early this year in such a way as to permit His Majesty's ships to stop and search illegal immigrant ships outside territorial waters. By that time however Ministers had decided that they did not wish, for political reasons, to stop ships in this way.

As regards the possibility of finding a basis in international instruments for representations to foreign Governments to prevent the illicit export of arms to Palestine we can only point to the following instruments, none of which provides a firm basis. The Saint-Germain Arms Traffic Convention of 1919, which would have been useful, never entered into force. The Protocol at the end of this Convention declared that it would be contrary to the intention of the High Contracting Parties and to the spirit of the Convention that pending its entry into force any

Contracting

Lieutenant-Colonel Sherman,
Cabinet Offices.

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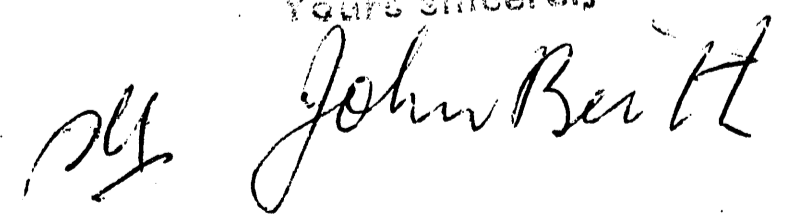
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Contracting Party should adopt any measure contrary to the provisions of the Convention; but this Protocol gave rise to certain difficulties owing to the attitude of the United States and consequently we, the Belgians, the French, the Italians and the Japanese came to an understanding by which it was agreed to apply the provisions of the Convention so far as concerned certain prohibited zones including Palestine. It is very doubtful whether this could now be relied on but if we are hard-pressed for arguments on which to base representations to any of the foreign Governments concerned we will look into the point further. The gap left by the Convention of 1919 not coming into force led to the drawing up of the Geneva Arms Traffic Convention of 1925, but this suffered the same fate as its predecessor and never came into force. The League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention of Terrorism contained some useful provisions in addition to those specifically relating to arms, but here again the Convention never entered into force. None of these instruments is therefore of much use to us.

We have however a general legal basis for representations, which is outlined in the attached extract from a minute by one of our Legal Advisers.

~~Yours sincerely~~

Yours sincerely



 J.B. John Beith

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See serial 12
45

In general, a State has no responsibility under international law to prevent and suppress subversive activities against foreign States on the part of private persons within its territory. On the other hand, it is generally recognised that States are under a legal duty to prevent and suppress such subversive activities as involve violence. It is true that in stating this rule, Oppenheim's International Law, 6th Edition, Vol. 1, page 260, refers only to "such subversive activity as assumes the form of armed hostile expeditions or attempts to commit common crimes against life or property"; but, in my opinion, though the unauthorised import of arms into Palestine does not perhaps fall literally within these categories, the supplying of arms to terrorists and rebels on the scale on which it is now being attempted, in that it substantially supports terrorist activities and promotes civil strife and acts of violence against persons and property, is clearly, in the present explosive state of the country, an activity within the rule of international law referred to by Oppenheim. In support of this contention reference may be made to Article 1 (i) of the League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, which reads as follows:-

"The High Contracting Parties, reaffirming the principle of international law in virtue of which it is the duty of every State to refrain from any act designed to encourage terrorist activities directed against another State and to prevent the acts in which such activities take shape, undertake as hereinafter provided to prevent and punish activities of this nature and to collaborate for this purpose."

Though this Convention has never come into force, it was formally adopted by the Final Act of the International Conference for the Suppression of Terrorism held at Geneva in 1937, which was signed by ~~a large number of countries~~
the delegates of thirty one States.

My opinion therefore is that we have a firm basis in international law on which to make representations to foreign States, requiring them to take steps to prevent the large-scale export of arms from their territories to Palestine. In the event of any refusal or failure to take the necessary steps we should probably have good grounds on which, if desirable, to arraign the State concerned before the United Nations.

In my opinion we should be fully justified under international law, as a necessary measure of self-defence, in (1) stopping and searching on the high seas any vessel which we had very good reason to believe to be carrying arms and ammunition to Palestine and (2) seizing and diverting any vessel in fact doing so. But I must emphasise that, to be legitimate, such interference with the vessel of a foreign State must be necessary to prevent an imminent danger and therefore, if practicable, the vessel's State should be given an opportunity itself to take the necessary preventive measures (See Oppenheim, 6th Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 265-271 and particularly footnote 1 to page 269).

--KAMMAM

/ The

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 51832

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46

The incidental sale of arms by private entities in the ordinary way of commerce, or in the course of their usual business, is something which Governments are under no legal duty to prevent (subject to the terms of particular Conventions). It is otherwise where the export of arms is specifically organised, for the express purpose (or as part of a campaign) of violent activity against a Foreign State or Government.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

Xmil 47

In general, a State has no responsibility under international law to prevent and suppress subversive activities against foreign States on the part of private persons within its territory. On the other hand, it is generally recognised that States are under a legal duty to prevent and suppress such subversive activities as involve violence. The incidental sale of arms by private entities in the ordinary way of commerce, or in the course of their usual business, is something which Governments are under no legal duty to prevent (subject to the terms of particular Conventions). It is otherwise where the export of arms is specifically organised, for the express purpose (or as part of a campaign) of violent activity against a Foreign State or Government, and, in my opinion, the supplying of arms to terrorists and rebels on the scale on which it is now being attempted in Palestine, in that it substantially supports terrorist activities and promotes civil strife and acts of violence against persons and property, is clearly, in the present explosive state of the country, an activity which foreign Governments are bound to prevent. In support of this contention reference may be made to Article 1(i) of the League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, which reads as follows:-

"The High Contracting Parties, reaffirming the principle of international law in virtue of which it is the duty of every State to refrain from any act designed to encourage terrorist activities directed against another State and to prevent the acts in which such activities take shape, undertake as hereinafter provided to prevent and punish activities of this nature and to collaborate for this purpose."

Though this Convention ^{and has it seems only been satisfied by India alone} has never come into force, it was formally adopted by the Final Act of the International Conference for the Suppression of Terrorism held at Geneva in 1937, which was signed by the delegates of thirty-one States.

My opinion therefore is that we have a firm basis in international law on which to make representations to foreign States, requiring them to take steps to prevent the large-scale export of arms from their territories to Palestine. In the event of any refusal or failure to take the necessary steps we should probably have good grounds on which, if desirable, to arraign the State concerned before the United Nations.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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In general, a State has no responsibility under international law to prevent and suppress subversive activities against foreign States on the part of private persons within its territory. On the other hand, it is generally recognised that States are under a legal duty to prevent and suppress such subversive activities as involve violence. The incidental sale of arms by private entities in the ordinary way of commerce, or in the course of their usual business, is something which Governments are under no legal duty to prevent (subject to the terms of particular Conventions). It is otherwise where the export of arms is specifically organised, for the express purpose (or as part of a campaign) of violent activity against a Foreign State or Government, and, in my opinion, the supplying of arms to terrorists and rebels on the scale of which it is now being attempted in Palestine, in that it substantially supports terrorist activities and promotes civil strife and acts of violence against persons and property, is clearly, in the present explosive state of the country, an activity which foreign Governments are bound to prevent. In support of this contention reference may be made to Article 1 (1) of the League of Nations Convention of 1937 for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism, which reads as follows:-

"The High Contracting Parties, reaffirming the principle of international law in virtue of which it is the duty of every State to refrain from any act designed to encourage terrorist activities directed against another State and to prevent the acts in which such activities take shape, undertake as hereinafter provided to prevent and punish activities of this nature and to collaborate for this purpose."

Though this Convention has never come into force, and has it seems been ratified by India alone, it was formally adopted by the Final Act of the International Conference for the Suppression of Terrorism held at Geneva in 1937, which was signed by the delegates of thirty-one States.

My opinion therefore is that we have a firm basis in international law on which to make representations to foreign States, requiring them to take steps to prevent the large-scale export of arms from their territories to Palestine. In the event of any refusal or failure to take the necessary steps we should probably have good grounds on which, if desirable, to arraign the State concerned before the United Nations.

In my opinion we should be fully justified under international law, as a necessary measure of self-defence, in (1) stopping and searching on the high seas any vessel which there was good reason to believe to be carrying arms and ammunition to Palestine and (2) seizing and diverting any vessel in fact doing so. It must be emphasised, however, that, to be legitimate, such interference with the vessel of a foreign State on the ground of self-defence must be necessary to prevent an imminent danger and therefore, if practicable, the vessel's State should be given an opportunity itself to take the necessary preventive measures (See Oppenheim 6th Edition, Vol. 1, pp. 265-271 and particularly footnote 1 to page 269).

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

SECRET

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in pw.
E

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From COMPAL

10824/48-31

061105B/February

Date 6.2.48

Recd. 1104

SECRET

10 FEB 1948
SECRET

Addressed C. in C. Med.
Info. Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Palestine government have no power outside Territorial waters.

2. Your 021745 February paragraph 2 refers.

3. Under emergency regulations applying in Palestine, commissioned officers of H.M. Forces can stop and board vessels inside Territorial waters only when suspected of illegal arms running. Such vessels can be detained if necessary by force and can be searched. Legal opinion holds that for purposes of detention, vessels could be taken to a suitable anchorage.

061105B

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- Parliamentary Secretary
- Civil Lord
- Secretary
- M. (8)
- D.N.L. (5)
- U.S.S.
- O.D. (8)
- D.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (0)
- C.N.L. (2)

AFB/26

Foreign Office (J.E. Cable Esq)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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<p>1947</p> <p>547</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E10893 /G</p> <p>21 NOV 1947</p> <p>30</p>
<p>E10893/48/31/G</p> <p>Chanery, Athens</p> <p>to E Dept</p> <p>46/410/47</p> <p>Dated 11 Nov</p> <p>Received 20 Nov.</p>	<p>Nikolaos</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E10174</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>Copy to Mr. Schen N.I.S.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> 22/11</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E10173/48/9.</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p> <p>PH Schen N.I.S.</p> <p>28 Nov</p> <p>28. Nov.</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>at 1.2</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>W.P.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

20 NOV 1947
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BRITISH EMBASSY,

ATHENS 21 NOV 1947

11th November, 1947

46/410/47

1cp/so.

Confidential

Dear Department,

Please refer to the entry regarding the newly-listed ship "Nikolaos" on page 3 of the M.I.5 periodical report No.23 on suspect shipping.

We have received a Note (dated 7th November) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which they give us similar information (though they do not mention the proposed port of embarkation), and state that Tipaldos is about to leave Rome for Marseilles.

The Ministry add that they have instructed the Greek Consul General at Marseilles to delay the sailing of the vessel so far as he legally can.

Yours ever,

Chancery

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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<p>548 1947</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E10894 /G 21 NOV 1947 52</p>
<p>E10894 /48/31/G Mr Chintem M.F.P. Mr Keith Dated 12 Nov Received 20 Nov.</p>	<p>Illegal immigration: d'Anavia</p>	
<p>Last Paper (E10438) E10893</p>	<p>(Minutes) Telegram amended in agreement with Mr. Mitchell and Working Party and sent. 24/11</p>	
<p>References</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of) Tel) Rome 2473. Row 24. 8) M.F.P.</p>		
<p>(Action completed) 25/25</p>	<p>(Index) M.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

20 NOV 1947

enter

Any reply to be addressed to:-
The Secretary.

Telephone: **WEY 7000.**

Telegrams:
"MINFUPO, SOWEST, LONDON."

Reference:

Your Reference:

MINISTRY OF FUEL AND POWER

PETROLEUM DIVISION,

7, MILLBANK,

LONDON, S.W.1.

12th November, 1947.

53



E10894

22 NOV 1947

SECRET

Dear Beith,

With reference to the meeting of the Illegal Immigration Working Party on Monday 10th instant, conclusions (c) (i) and (ii), I feel on reflection that it would be preferable for the telegram to Rome to be sent by the Foreign Office.

I have spoken to Evershed who is inclined to agree with me and I attach a draft telegram which, if you concur, you might think serves the purpose.

A copy of this and the draft is being sent to Evershed.

Yours sincerely,

J. Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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DRAFT

To:-
H.M. Ambassador
for Rome

Telegram

No.
November
1947

Cypher

SECRET

54

I understand from confidential sources that fuel oil is being, or may be, made available to Stephano D'ANDRIA by Emilio Squadrelli of Piazza Sair Babila, MILAN through MARTEN of 8 Via Nizza GENOVA. It is highly probable that oil is required for illegal immigration vessels and that source of supply is ALBATROSS Company who obtain most of their crude under large contract from Anglo-Iranian Oil Co.

^{we are!}
2. ~~It is felt that little useful action can be taken at this end~~ and I should be grateful, provided you see no objection, if you could bring some pressure to bear locally either directly or indirectly in order to dissuade the Albatross Company from supplying the products refined from British crude oil to persons engaged in illegal immigration traffic.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

540. WA. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No. E10874/48/6 J.R.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

ROME

Telegram.

No. 2473

(Date) NOV 24

Repeat to:-

~~En Clair.~~
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution:-

Departmental No. 1

Copies to:-

J.I.P.
M. of F. S.P. (Mr. Mitchell)

OUT FILE CYPHER

Despatched 26/11/1947 2.10 A.M. 55

Confidential

Addressed Rome telegram re
November

Jewish illegal immigration.

Reports from confidential sources
do suggest that fuel oil may
be made available to D'ANDRIA
for vessels engaged in illegal
immigration by EMILIO SQUADRELLI
of PIAZZA SAIR BABILA, MILAN,
through MARTEN of 8 VIA NIZZA,
GENOA. Source of supply is probably
ALBATROSS company who obtain
most of their crude under large
contract from Anglo-Franco
Oil company.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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2. Approach has been made to Dr. KIND who is understood to be associated with AQUILA and ALBATROSS and I should be grateful if you, in turn, could bring some pressure to bear locally, either directly or indirectly, in order to dissuade the ALBATROSS company from supplying the products refined from British crude oil to persons engaged in the illegal immigration traffic.

J 27/4

56

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FO 371 / 61832

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Green
57

E 1089A/48/G

OUT FILE

Confidential.

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 2473

24th November, 1947. D. 2.15 a.m. 26th November, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

Jewish illegal immigration.

Reports from confidential sources suggest that fuel oil may be made available to D'Andria for vessels engaged in illegal immigration by Emilio Squadrelli of Piazza Sair Babila, Milan, through Marten of 8 Via Nizza Genoa. Source of supply is probably Albatross company who obtain most of their crude under large contract from Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

2. Approach has been made to Doctor Kind who is understood to be associated with Aquila and Albatross and I should be grateful if you, in turn, could bring some pressure to bear locally, either directly or indirectly, in order to dissuade the Albatross company from supplying the products refined from British crude oil to persons engaged in the illegal immigration traffic.

QQQ

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Reference: **EO 371 / 61832**

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262

587
1947

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E 10899
19 NOV
58

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E10899/48/31
TELEGRAM FROM
No. } L.I. 11 Aback.
Dated } Vienna
Received } 927
in Registry } 2,007
3 -

French Refugee in New York.
from High Commissioner. Ref No. 1326.
(WR 3278/19/48). Believe that there is some misunderstanding
of the use of ex-Army vehicles and uniforms by
French and other relief organizations, based on
M. Riedel report and suggest names for it
origid.

Last Paper.
E10894
[Signature]

(Minutes.)

References.
E 10773/48/1

While it is true that it is in Italy that abuses of this nature
are most flagrant, I still consider that a tightening-up
of regulations about the use of pseudo-official vehicles and
uniforms by Jewish organisations would be beneficial. There
is, I believe, quite a considerable influe of Jews into the French Zone
of Austria from the U.S. Zone and from the French Zone into
Italy. We might point this out to Vienna.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

At the same time we might also ask Rome to suggest
to the Italians that they should insist on distinctive
markings on vehicles operated by relief organisations and
on officials of such bodies not wearing keeki. They might
also arrange for the vicinity of the frontier to be banned
to such vehicles and officials.

Aft) Chancery,
Vienna, for
UWE Dept.
15 Oct.

Aft) Chancery,
Rome, for
UWE Dept.
15 Oct P.T.O.

[Signature] 6/10

(Action completed.)
[Signature] 2/12

(Index.)
[Signature] 29/9/48

Austrian Section
Eastern Dept
I agree 15 Oct. 9

I agree, and as an instance of attack Vienna despatch
No 73 which we failed to find at the beginning of the correspondence.
[Signature] 7:10

Next Paper.
[Signature]
E 10915

[Signature] 10/10

27692 F.O.P. Unless London Dept have heard anything
from

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Reference:
FO 371 / 61832

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from Rome recently which might throw some new
light on this matter, I suggest that we send a reminder.
Perhaps, as this matter is one which appears to be the prime
concern of Eastern Dept, they may care to take over these pp?
D.W. Williamson 17/11

Eastern Dept

I agree

Doble
(J.F. CABLE)
18/11

b.B.



Reminder to Rome

J 28/11

59

Mr. Chancery
Rome
from & alert
~~page~~
✓ Dec. 2

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

Cypher/OTP

WR 3332
OCT 2 1947

WR 60
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir. H. Mack.
No. 927.

D. 5.06 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

2nd October 1947.

R. 7.20 p.m. 2nd October 1947.

0:0:0:0

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

10899
19 NOV

Following from High Commissioner.

Your telegram No. 1326. 3278/10/47

I think there is some misunderstanding about the use by the Jewish and other relief organisations of ex- army vehicles and uniforms.

2. Mr. Ruck's report drew attention to this practice in Italy and to its effect in hindering Italian authorities from apprehending Jews who have succeeded in crossing the Austrian Italian frontier. I wish to emphasise that the matter is of importance only in Italy where the Italian Government have a will to stop Jews.

3. In Austria on the other hand there is no will to stop the Jews except on the part of British and French. Once the Jews have succeeded in crossing the Austrian Hungarian frontier into Austria, the Austrians, Russians and Americans are reported to get them to the place where they can be fed by relief organisations, that is the United States zone of Austria. It is therefore of no consequence as to what colour the vehicles are in Austria nor what uniforms their drivers wear since the Jews do not travel in the vehicles through either the British or the French zones of Austria.

4. In the circumstances there does not appear to be anything to be gained by mentioning this to my United States and French colleagues or to Austrian colleagues.

5. The Soviet exercises control over the Austrian Hungarian frontier and as recently as August 27th Soviet Commander in Chief in a letter to me undertook to tighten up control over movement into Austria from Hungary.

OCT 1947

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. CONFIDENTIAL
NR 3332/10/48

see. Austria 6/10
Draft.

Chancery,
Legation
Vienna
Telegram.

from UNE kept

see minute
CAL
7:10
Austrian Section
Suter (Sept)
2. Oct 4

OUT FILE

fo

13 AM.
15-2 Oct 45 MM
61
M.

Despatched

Dear Chancery,

Your telegram No 927 of the 2nd October about the misuse by Jewish organisations of ex-US Army vehicles.

While we ~~oppose~~ ^{agree} that a ban on the use of pseudo-official vehicles and uniforms by such bodies would be most effective in Italy, we cannot help feeling that it might have some effect in Austria too. What we have in mind is the misuse of ex-US Army trucks in the transportation of Jews into the various zones. For example, there is, we understand, a fairly extensive traffic in Jews from the U.S. Zone via the French Zone to Italy. ^(see your despatch No 13 of the 2nd June) This traffic would possibly be less. It would perhaps be useful if the

French

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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French authorities could know for certain whether a particular truck was being run by Jews or by U.S. officials, in order that they could keep an eye on the one, without impeding the passage of the other.

However, if you are satisfied that no useful purpose would be served by our original proposals, we do not wish to press the point.

AWB:W 10/10

62

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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63

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

15th October, 1947.

(WR 3332/10/48)

Confidential

Dear Chancery,

Your telegram No.927 of the 2nd October about the misuse by Jewish organisations of ex-United States Army vehicles.

While we agree that a ban on the use of pseudo-official vehicles and uniforms by such bodies would be most effective in Italy, we cannot help feeling that it might have some effect in Austria too. What we have in mind is the misuse of ex-United States Army trucks in the transportation of Jews into the various Zones. For example, there is, we understand, a fairly extensive traffic in Jews from the United States Zone via the French Zone in Italy (see your despatch No.73 of the 2nd June). It would perhaps be useful if the French authorities could know for certain whether a particular truck was being run by Jews or by United States officials, in order that they could keep an eye on the one without impeding the passage of the other.

However, if you are satisfied that no useful purpose would be served by our original proposals, we do not wish to press the point.

Yours ever,

United Nations (Economic and Social) Department.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Vienna.

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Reference:

FO

371

51832

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Registry
No. CONFIDENTIAL
WR 3 24/10/48

OUT FILE

TOC

64

15th Oct.

Despatched _____ M.

See 24/10/48
Draft.

Chancery,

Embassy
Telogram. Rome

from UNE Dept

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

United Nations
Economic & Social
Dept.

~~draft~~
Easter Dept 9

Dear Chancery,

It is a notorious fact that Jewish illegal traffic is being assisted by so-called relief organisations using pseudo-official vehicles and uniforms.

We should therefore be glad if you could suggest to the Italian Government that they insist on all such vehicles being painted in distinctive colours and that officials of these organisations should be compelled to wear civilian dress or uniforms dyed in such a way as to make them clearly distinguishable from official uniforms.

^{Would it be possible}
~~In addition it would be useful~~
^{also to get them to impose}
~~if a ban were to be imposed on~~
the use of such vehicles within twenty miles of the Austro-Italian frontier.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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frontier, ^{in order} ~~this should~~ prevent these trucks
from picking up persons who have just
crossed the frontier?

AWW 10/10

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OUT FILE

66
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

15th October, 1947.

(WR 3332/10/48)

Confidential

Dear Chancery,

It is a notorious fact that Jewish illegal traffic is being assisted by so-called relief organisations using pseudo-official vehicles and uniforms.

We should therefore be glad if you could suggest to the Italian Government that they insist on all such vehicles being painted in distinctive colours and officials of these organisations wearing civilian dress or uniforms dyed in such a way as to make them clearly distinguishable from official uniforms.

Would it be possible also to get them to impose a ban on the use of such vehicles within twenty miles of the Austro-Italian frontier, in order to prevent these trucks from picking up persons who have just crossed the frontier?

Yours ever,

United Nations(Economic and Social)Dept.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(83854) Wt. 14696/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

Registry
No. E 10874/48/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open

Draft.

Rome & Honey
from
Eastern Dept.

OUT FILE

29am

9a

67

2nd Dec

+ 00

Dear Honey,

We should be grateful to know whether you were able to take any action on the letter from U.N. (Econ. & Soc.) Dept. no. WR 3732/10/48 of the 15th October, in which they suggested that the Italian Govt. might take steps to prevent the abuse by A.S.D.C. and other organisations of pseudo-official (generally ex-U.S. Army) vehicles and uniforms.

Yours ever

Eastern Dept.

J 28/11

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION.
28 NOV 1947
SENT TO 28/1
DEPART 2/12

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FO 371 / 61832

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

2nd December, 1947. 68

(E 10899/48/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Chancery,

We should be grateful to know whether you were able to take any action on the letter from the United Nations (Economic and Social) Department No. WR 3332/10/48 of the 15th October, in which they suggested that the Italian Government might take steps to prevent the abuse by A.J.D.C. and other organisations of pseudo-official (generally ex-United States Army) vehicles and uniforms.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

**The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.**

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

69

W.R. 3278/10/48
Confidential
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO VIENNA

No. 1326

29th September, 1947. D.10.30 a.m. 30th September, 1947.

B B B B B

Following for High Commissioner.

Your telegram No. 896 [of 25th September: use
of United States army transport by Jewish organisations]

It would be most useful if these Jewish and other
relief organisations could be compelled to paint
their vehicles a different colour and to dye their
uniforms, so that they may be prevented from exploiting
this situation.

3. Perhaps this might be taken up with your
French and United States colleagues and, if appropriate,
with the Austrian Government.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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263

E

E 10915

70

1947

PALESTINE

21 NOV

Registry Number

E10915/48/31

FROM

J.W. Wall

No.

Consulate
Barabiana

Dated

179 - S/47

Received in Registry

JW/dl
21 Oct
21 Nov

North Africa Illegal Immigration
Refers to letter E8621/48/31. The French Police report their willingness to co-operate in passing on any information they obtain about transit, conversation with Chief of Police during which he reported all is quiet re search activities,

Last Paper.

10899

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

cf. Scherr M.T.
Nov 26

(Action completed.)

J.E.M. 12

(Index.)

29/9/48

Next Paper.

E10921

32003 F.O.P

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

21/11

BRITISH CONSULATE

CASABLANCA

Morocco.

October 1947.

SECRET

10915

21 NOV

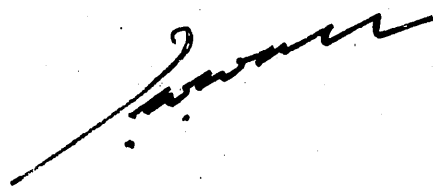
179 - S/47
JW/dl

Dear Eastern Department,

Your letter No. E 8621/48/31 of 30th September 1947 about Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine.

2. The French police here profess their willingness to co-operate in passing on any information they obtain about Zionist activity here. I had a talk with the chief of Casablanca police yesterday and he told me that his agent in Jewish circles here had reported that, for the moment, all is quiet. He feels that the Zionists here are waiting to see how things develop in Palestine. He has, at any rate, he says, no news of illegal immigration being organized here at present.

Yours ever,



Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

72

Group .. *FO*

Class .. *371*

Piece .. *61832*

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Department of origin under Section 3 (4)
of the Public Records Act, 1958

E10921/48/31

E10922

E10923

E10924

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61832

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268

E

E 10970

73

1947

PALESTINE

28 NOV

Registry Number

E 10970/48/71

FROM

Consulate

No.

General

Dated

Tunis.

Received in Registry

29/7/55

14 Nov

24 -

North Africa Illegal Immigration
Re: Report of V. G. (E 8621/48/71) re Organisation
French North Africa of Illegal Immigration to
Poland. The Presidency General persistently maintains
that no such organisation exists in Tunisia,
further comments.

Last Paper

10924

References

(Minutes.)

copy to Mr. Schum M.I.S.

Western Dept.

27/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

5 Ackd.

M/S

Dec. 2

#108

(Action completed)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

10979

1
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6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

2917/558/136

Secret.

10970
24 NOV

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL

TUNIS

14th November, 1947.

E 74

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter of the 30th September last, E8621/48/31, regarding the organisation in French North Africa of illegal Jewish immigration to Palestine.

2. The Residency General persistently maintain that no such organisation exists in Tunisia. They state that the Tunisian Jews are not interested or concerned in this question and that apart from a group of eighty Jews who entered Tunisia from Tripolitania last July to the considerable annoyance of the French authorities (our telegrams 51 and 52 to the Foreign Office are relevant), no Jews have entered irregularly, though it is always possible that one or two may slip in over the Southern land frontier or be put ashore clandestinely on the coast.

3. We agree with the Residency as regards the settled Jewish community in Tunisia, who are only too happy to be left alone, nor have we been able to confirm the existence in Tunisia of any regular organisation for harbouring, selecting, preparing or assisting on their way illegal immigrants. (A report from the British Military Administration, Tripolitania, suggested that a training-school for candidates existed at some place 250 kilometres from Tunis, possibly at Sfax). At the same time, the Residency are probably too complacent (even the recent incident of the partly successful embarkation in the "Giovanni Maria" near Algiers has failed to shake them) since it seems unlikely that no attention is being devoted by militant Zionism to the Regency. It seems probable that activity in Tunis would have its centre at the "Gazette d'Israel", a virulently anti-British weekly stated in fact by one source to be the Irgoum headquarters here (see our letter of the 6th October last to you, 2610/558/123).

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to His Majesty's Consuls General in Algiers and Rabat, the Headquarters, British Military Administration, Tripoli, and the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

Yours ever,

Tunis Consulate General



The Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

8. 11. 47

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Reference: **FO 371** / 81832

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269

E

E 10979

1947

PALESTINE

24 NOV

75

Registry Number

E10979/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

de Michals,

No.

Prague.

Dated

1075

Received in Registry

22 Nov 24

Illegal Immigration, Roumania.
Refer Bucharest tel 1352 (E1079/48/31)
There is no Uruguayan Consulate branch at
Branco named Hugo Joffe but name in
Prague.

Last Paper.

10970

(Minutes.)

See E 10981

References.

J 24/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 J.J.P. (on E10981/84/31)
Nov. 26.

(Action completed.)

J.E.M. 26/11

(In x.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

10981

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2
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

10979

76

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENT NO. 1.

FROM PRAGUE TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir P. Nichols.
No. 1075

D. 2.39 p.m. 22nd November 1947
R. 3.0 p.m. 22nd November 1947

22nd November 1947
Repeated to Rome

Bucharest
Montevideo

Bucharest telegram No. 1352 to you.

There is a Uruguayan honorary Consul at
Brno named Hugo Seffer but none in Prague.

Please pass to Rome, Bucharest and Montevideo
as my telegrams Nos. 8, 38 and 1 respectively.

[Repeated to Rome, Bucharest and Montevideo].

V V V



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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	Palestine EASTERN	E11009 /G 77
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E11009 148/10^{31/6}
 Alexandria
 19
 Dated 22 Nov
 Received 24 Nov

Las Tamplas

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Telegram to Alexandria.

J 24/11

References.

See within
 1. Alexandria 20 24 Nov

(Print.)

This is very satisfactory. Both these telegrams should have I.I.P. distribution.

J 25/11

(How disposed of.)

Tel) Alexandria 34
 — 24 Nov
 Rep'd Cairo 2156
 Rome 380 Saw
 Genoa 1 Saw
 8)11P ✓ 26 Nov

(Action completed.) <i>JF</i> 25/11	(Index.) <i>lpt</i>
--	------------------------

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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Green

E11009

24 NOV 1947 78

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul.
No. 19. D. 6.45 p.m. 22nd November, 1947.
22nd November, 1947. R. 5.19 p.m. 22nd November, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 11,
Senior Naval Officer Port Said.

Your telegram No. 52.

Suspect shipping.

Las Temp[gp. undec.] is here and new [gp. undec.]
propeller [gp. undec.] completed. Egyptian Port
Director was informed that ship was suspect but
he regrets that promise denying bunker facilities was
overlooked and 140 tons of coal were loaded on
November 19th. Ship may want to sail after one week,
but authorities are considering means of delaying her.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

RECORDED
24 NOV 1947
21 NOV 1947

555

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Reference: **FO** 371 / 61832

Cypher

79

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul,
No. 19. D. 6.45 p.m. 22nd November, 1947.
22nd November, 1947. R. 5.19 p.m. 22nd November, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 11,
Senior Naval Officer Port Said.

Your telegram No. 52.

Suspect shipping.

Las Temp[gp. undec.] is here and now [gp. undec.]
propeller [gp. undec.] completed. Egyptian Port
Director was informed that ship was suspect but
he regrets that promise denying bunker facilities was
overlooked and 140 tons of coal were loaded on
November 19th. Ship may want to sail after one week,
but authorities are considering means of delaying her.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

555

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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Cairo

E E11009

Cypher/OTP

25 NOV 1947

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE. 80

His Majesty's Consul,
No. 20. D. 7.15 p.m. 24th November, 1947.
24th November,
1947. R. 7.07 p.m. 24th November, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 12,
Senior Naval Officer Port Said.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference immediately preceding telegram:
suspected shipping.

Egyptian authorities and supplying firm
propose unloading coal from ship. I will
report whether this is done.

555

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E 11009/48/G

J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Alexandria

Telegram.

No. 34.

(Date) NOV 24th

Repeat to:-

Cairo No. 2156

Rome (No 380 SAU)
Genoa (No 1300)

En Clair.

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:-

Departmental no. 1

Copies to:-

I.I.P.

26/11

OUT FILE

CYPHER

Despatched

7/10 M.

81

Confidential

Addressed Alexandria Telegram no. 34. November 24th repeated for information to Cairo, Rome and Genoa.

~~Unconfirmed report suggests~~

Your telegram no. 19 [of 24th November: Jewish illegal immigration]

Unconfirmed report suggests

that "HAS TAMPLAS" is due at Genoa.

I hope Egyptian authorities will try to prevent her departure.

[Signature]
24/11

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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OUT FILE

82
Green

E 11009/48/G

Cypher/OTP
Confidential

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ALEXANDRIA

No. 54

24th November, 1947

D: 7. a. m. 25th November, 1947

Repeated to: Cairo No. 2156

Rome No. 380 Saving

Genoa No. 1 Saving

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed Alexandria telegram No. 54 November 24th repeated for information to Cairo, and Saving to Rome and Genoa.

Your telegram No. 19 [of 24th November: Jewish illegal immigration].

Unconfirmed report suggests that "Las Tamplas" is due at Genoa. I hope Egyptian authorities will try to prevent her departure.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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556 31

Palestine

EASTERN

E11044 /G
83

E11044/48/G

W.O. command
G/131430

Dated 22 Nov
Received 25 Nov

Russian officers on 8.8
Rafaelucia

Last Paper
E11017

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

This is surprising if true. I should have thought that Russian officers anxious to reach Palestine would have travelled on a ship sailed direct from a Black Sea port rather than from Italy.

Northern Dept. 27/11

[Signature]
(J.E.C.H.E.)
25/11
J.B.M.V. 25

(Action completed)
J.F. 28/11

(Index)
[Signature]

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

5 NOV 1947

**TOP SECRET
CIPHER TELEGRAM**

414428.
Enoyu / 84

This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased.
(Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased.)

25 NOV 1947

Recd. 22 Nov 47.

From:-C in C MELF.

D.T.O. 211930B Nov.

To:-GOC Palestine and Transjordan.

Info:-The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

TOP SECRET. GI/31730.

Understand that majority of passengers of IJI ship Rafaeluccia came from Russian occupied Balkans and included at least three former Soviet Army officers. If correct clearly important to consider feasibility of interrogation notwithstanding known difficulties. Grateful confirmation and any views.

Message Control.

Distribution by M.O.4.
To:- M.O.4.(for action)

- Copies to:-
- C.I.G.S.
- V.C.I.G.S.
- D.M.O.
- D.D.M.O.(A).
- M.O.1.4.
- D.M.I.
- M.I.1.3.
- Foreign Office (Mr. Garran).
- Colonial Office (Mr. Trafford Smith).
- Admiralty (Mr. Dodds).

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Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61832*

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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277

E

86

11143

1947

PALESTINE

26 NOV

Registry Number

E 11143/48/31

FROM

John Higham

No.

Colonial Office

Dated

76021/P210

Received in Registry

26 Nov.

Illegal Immigration.

Enclose copy of statement on Illegal Immigration which it was decided should not be used authoritatively at present moment, though it provides useful material for guidance to the Press.

Last Paper.

11136

References.

(Minutes.)

Please forward copy to Bobbes Mr. Martin at New York. A ruling on the use of this statement is now being sought from the S. of S.

B.V. 11/12

J 26/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Sent to Mr. Martin
U.K. Dept
New York.
Nov 27.

The S. of S. has decided not to make use of this material at present.

J 1/12

(Action completed.)

J 21/12

(Index.)

J 29/1/48

Next Paper.

11207

32003 F.O.P

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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76021/PQ10

IMMEDIATE

Dear Cable,

I enclose herewith a copy of the Statement on illegal immigration which, it was decided, should not be issued authoritatively at the present moment, though it provides useful material for guidance to the Press. I am putting in two extra copies. One is for Washington, and I should be grateful if you would arrange for the other to go out to Martin in New York.

Yours sincerely,

John D. Higham

(J.D. Higham)

MR. J.E. CABLE.

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

November, 1947.

NOV 11 1947

NOV 11 1947

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87

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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88

STATEMENT

Since the end of the war 49 ships carrying over 45,000 illegal immigrants have arrived off the coast of Palestine. All except one of these were despatched by Bricha, the Immigration Branch of the Hagana, the illegal Jewish militia in Palestine. His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the Hagana acts for this purpose under the guidance of the Jewish Agency through some hundreds of envoys in Europe. The activities of these envoys are directed throughout the Continent from a network of offices in which legitimate rehabilitation and resettlement work often goes on side by side with the organisation of illegal immigration. Hagana's illegal immigration headquarters are in Palestine. Its main offices in Western Europe are in Paris and Milan; it has other important offices in Prague, Bratislava Budapest and Vienna.

One of the primary functions of the Hagana organisation in Europe is to select suitable candidates for immigration. It would seem that humanitarian considerations play only a part in this process. In fact peaceful citizens are often persuaded to abandon their homes by playing on the fear of what the future may hold. The main line adopted in this intensive Zionist propaganda is the stimulation of the idea that Palestine is the only possible goal of Jews throughout the world. An important aim of the organizers is to provide a healthy stock capable of redressing the adverse racial balance in Palestine. Fixed quotas of immigrants are allocated to the various Zionist political parties. This process gives rise to constant internal discord.

Recruiting agents for the terrorist groups are also active throughout Central Europe. Hagana have publicly condemned these so-called "dissidents"; nevertheless, large quantities of Irgun Zvai Leumi propaganda material and membership leaflets were found on board the s.s. Farida - a Hagana ship - which arrived in Palestine waters on 27th September, 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

The illegal immigrants make their way across Europe by certain well-defined routes, accompanied by Hagana agents, to assembly areas near convenient ports of embarkation. Movements on this scale would not be possible without considerable assistance from outside bodies. The most notable of these is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and organisation that engages to a considerable extent in legitimate activities, but without whose assistance the exodus to Palestine could hardly take place. British observers have frequently reported A.J.J.D.C. lorries ^{YOVNE} full of Jews in Austria and Italy following routes which it is known are the main lines of this movement. These lorries have U.S. Army markings and the drivers wear American style uniforms. Local police and customs authorities are not unnaturally reluctant to take any action against what appears to be official transport of the Occupation Authorities.

On arrival at the coast embarkation may be either clandestine or overt. At a friendly port the embarkation is overt, usually but not always under cover of an ostensible voyage to some destination such as Alexandria, Istanbul or some Latin American country. That the authorities concerned do not always exercise reasonable vigilance in checking the authenticity of visas and travel documents is illustrated by the fact that passengers on board two ships which recently left a Bulgarian port are stated to have had visas for the Lebanon, Syria, Persia and Egypt. Among other countries whose visas have been forged are Ethiopia, Bolivia, San Salvador, Costa Rica, Columbia and Mexico.

Overt embarkation can of course only take place with the connivance of the authorities concerned. Measures taken by the French and Italian Governments have increased the difficulties of this method. Clandestine embarkation, usually at night, is now often resorted to. News of these embarkations frequently reaches the local authorities too late to be of any use, but the Italian police have, on occasion, been able to break up parties before they have embarked, and it will be recalled that an attempt by some 600 /Jews

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

Jews was recently frustrated by the prompt action of the Algerian authorities. On at least one occasion elsewhere the Jews have been able, by a show of force, to intimidate the local inhabitants and security forces and to effect an embarkation despite the attempts of the local authorities to intervene.

The acquisition of ships is carried out through diverse channels by methods which seem designed to put as much money as possible into the hands of disreputable agents. The general practice is for the organisers to procure an agent to buy a suitable vessel from an owner. The organisers then pay the agent, (delivery having been effected at a fitting out port) at a greatly enhanced price. Among the most notorious of the purchasing agents are Stefano D'Andria, Jean Pandelis, Jean Eliadis and Emanuel Postinis, who make use of the services of Ginesta and Company of Marseilles for fitting out and provisioning their ships prior to departure for Palestine. This Company has acted as agents for at least 12 ships which have arrived in Palestine waters with illegal immigrants and is now acting as agents for at least eight ships in European ports now preparing to sail. When ships are procured in America they are usually acquired by "mushroom" companies such as the Weston Trading Company of New York which financed the PRESIDENT WARFIELD, NORTHLANDS AND TRADE WINDS. These companies disappear from the scene as soon as they have served their immediate purpose, which is to give a cover of respectability to the venture and to secure registration of the vessel concerned under national flag. The ships themselves are largely provisioned with American Army surplus stocks transferred to relief organisations, and our naval boarding parties have found that one of the commonest weapons used against them is the American canned meat tin.

All this organisation has been extremely costly. At the Zionist Congress held in Basle in December, 1946, the budget passed /for

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Reference:

FO

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for the succeeding two years amounted to 14 million pounds, which was double the total amount for the seven years 1939/46 and was the largest budget in Zionist history. Although naturally no mention is made of funds for illegal immigration, the budget is of course the source of the funds of the Jewish Agency. The organisations responsible for illegal immigration could not however subsist without additional contributions from abroad on a very large scale. These funds are mainly contributed by Zionist sympathisers in the U.S.A. The Hagana also sponsors special appeals for funds through advertisements in the American Press which draw attention to the fact that the sums collected, being for "charitable" purposes, will be free from U.S. tax. According to Hagana's own statement to the Press in June, 1947, the cost of transporting one refugee across the Mediterranean is \$160 while it costs another \$40 to get the refugee over-land from Germany to the port of embarkation.

Further funds are raised by groups bitterly jealous of and opposed to Hagana such as the American League for a Free Palestine and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. These organisations have so far succeeded in sending only one ship, the ABRIL, to Palestine despite the large funds they claim to have raised. There is reason to believe that a considerable proportion of the monies collected by these two bodies are diverted to the terrorists whom they openly incite to further outrages.

Despite its complex organisation and ample funds, the Hagana could not succeed in despatching ships to Palestine if the maritime countries concerned and the countries through which the Jews must pass on their way to the sea, were prepared to cooperate by taking the measures required by the situation. H.M.G. have always held that they are entitled, by virtue of the United Nations Resolution of the 15th of May, 1947 calling on Governments and peoples to refrain from acts calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine, to expect full cooperation from Member States.

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Such co-operation would not, in most cases, entail more than the proper enforcement of existing legislation, a closer control of frontiers, a stricter scrutiny of passports and visas and the application to the unseaworthy and overcrowded vessels employed in this traffic of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea, and that concerning load-lines. In addition, His Majesty's Government have asked Member States to deny to vessels engaged in this traffic fuel, provisions surplus to the crew's requirements, and the protection of their national flag. Since nearly all the countries concerned are suffering from acute shortages of food and fuel, and all are presumably anxious to maintain the prestige of their flags, these requests are hardly unreasonable.

Nevertheless vessels continue to arrive in Palestine waters flying the flag of Member States, having drawn provisions and fuel from the ports of Member States whose regulations they have, in the process, not infrequently flouted. The flag which has recently been most favoured by the organisers is that of Panama which has been worn by no fewer than 10 ships.

Since the end of 1945 some 19 vessels have left Italian ports, while at least 13 have left French ports. Recently the focus of the traffic has tended to shift to Roumania and Bulgaria. The situation here is indeed interesting in that, as recently as May this year, the Roumanian Democratic Jewish Front, which embodies all Jewish associations supporting the Government, issued a declaration denouncing the "criminal actions of certain factions which encourage the anarchic emigration of Jews." The declaration stated that families had sold all their worldly possessions to leave, only to find they are penniless and abandoned in neighbouring countries. Jewish Revisionist leaders in Roumania, who were the most ardent protagonists of emigration were warned that this illegal traffic must stop. The Governments of these countries have hitherto discouraged Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine on the grounds that there was no danger of persecution to Jewish
/people

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people in their territories. The recent departure of two shiploads from Varna and the presence at Constanza of two large Panamanian ships, PAN CRESCENT AND PAN YORK, which are known to be preparing to set out for Palestine, seem to indicate a change of attitude on the part of the Governments concerned.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

278

1947

E

11202
28 NOV 1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E11202/48/31
FROM } F.O.S.
No. } banned
Dated }
Received in Registry } 28 Nov

Illegal Immigrants
Copy of letter from S.W. & Young to J. Higham of Nov 25, discussing cost of maintenance of Exodus Jews and possible resumption of some to Palestine.

Last Paper.

11143

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
29/11/47

(Index)

[Signature]
29/11/47

Next Paper.

11204

(Minutes.)

[Signature]
(J.G. CABAE)
28/11

A representative of German Refugee Dept. was present at the O.C.P. meeting on illegal immigration this morning and put their point of view. But the Exodus Jews are only a part of the problem, and a minor one.

[Signature]
Dec. 8

Lith Pyman
[Signature]

[Signature]

10.11

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C.18/9

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enter

28 NOV

25th November, 1947

Dear Higham,

I am writing with reference to the discussion which took place at our meeting with Russell-Edmonds at the Treasury on 20th November at which Hampshire was also present.

2. As regards the cost of maintenance of the Exodus Jews in the British Zone, Hampshire said that, the Jews having refused to apply for I.R.O. maintenance, this was being borne at present as follows:- (a) the cost of staff and administration by the Foreign Office (German Section) in sterling; (b) the cost of imported food and other commodities, half by the American Government and half by the Foreign Office (German Section), the total being divided in proportions of roughly 80%-20% in dollars and sterling respectively. After the new agreement for the economic fusion of the U.S. and British Zones comes into force, which is expected shortly, the proportions of (b) payable by the British and American Governments will probably be in the neighbourhood of 20%-80% respectively instead of half and half.

3. We agreed that in equity, and following the principle that the Palestine Government pay for the cost of stopping illegal immigration, the whole cost of the maintenance of the Exodus Jews in Germany should be borne by that Government. This would involve their being required to pay a high proportion of the cost in dollars to the U.S. Government. In this connection, we observed that General Clay had already expressed disapproval of our unilateral action in importing the Jews into the B-zone, and would be justified in raising a claim against us on account of the cost of maintaining them.

4. You pointed out, however, that a proposal on these lines would be likely to be received unfavourably by the Palestine Government who had objected to the removal of the Jews in question to Germany, although if they had been removed to Cyprus that Government would have been liable to pay for their maintenance there. You considered that, in the present circumstances, it would be politically undesirable to make this proposal to the Palestine Government particularly in view of the dollar expenditure involved.

5. We then discussed the position in regard to the eventual transfer of these Jews to Palestine and we agreed that they must be regarded in this respect as on all fours with the Jews in Cyprus. They are, in effect, "a chip off the Cyprus block".

6. Under the decision of the Defence Committee on 7th November (D.O.(47) 23rd Meeting, Item 1), the Official Committee on Palestine has been invited to consider and report further on the policy to be pursued in respect of illegal immigration and on the arrangements for disposing of the illegal immigrants detailed in Cyprus. I gathered from what you said that this meant that arrangements would have to be made for the transport of the latter to Palestine before the termination of our administrative control of that country, and this would involve exceeding the authorized immigration quota, in the last weeks at any rate, by a considerable number. The addition of the 4,500 Exodus Jews to the number to be transferred in this way would, of course, increase the extent to which the quota would have to be exceeded, but the principle remains, and it is clear they should be included in the consideration to be given to the question by the Official Committee.

7. In view of all the arguments financial and political which were considered, it seemed to our meeting that the solution of these problems lay along the following lines:-

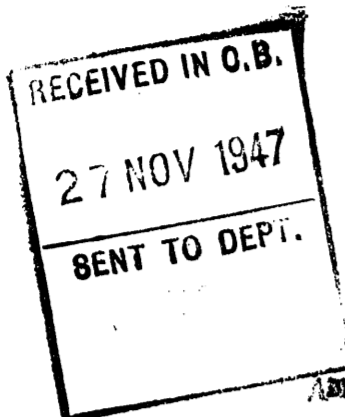
- (1) The cost of maintaining the Exodus Jews in Germany to be allowed to lie where it falls unless the

Americans/...

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:
FO 371 / 61832

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96

NOV 27 1947
VOK 53

Americans raise the matter specifically, in which case the position will have to be re-considered. (We do not, however, anticipate that this is likely to happen).

- (11) Arrangements to be made for the clearance of the Exodus camps at the same time as the Cyprus camps are cleared, and for the transport of the 4,500 Jews to Palestine before the end of our administrative control.

In view, however, of the decision of the Defence Committee referred to above, this matter must be referred for decision to the Official Committee on Palestine, where the views of other interested departments, including our Eastern Department, will be represented.

6. If the decision of the Official Committee is along the lines indicated above, the actual place to be occupied by the Exodus Jews in the clearance programme would be for you to determine in conjunction with the High Commissioner. We, for our part, would naturally hope that they would not come too late in the programme lest there might be a danger of their being left out altogether as a result of a last minute change of plans such as might result, for example, from evidence of strong Arab hostility. Moreover, special arrangements for transport would have to be made, as I presume that the "Grand National" route via Marseilles will not be able to take the number concerned, and it will be necessary to ship them back the way they came, via Hamburg.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Russell-Edmonds.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. W. L. IVIMY.

J. D. Higham, Esq.,
The Colonial Office,
Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

Copy to:- Mrs. Beeth.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Piece 61832

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E11204/48/31

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

287

778

E

11241

98

1947

PALESTINE

29

Registry Number

L 11241/48/31

FROM

Paris Chancery

No.

U.N. (E+S) Dept

Dated

72/957/47

Received in Registry

19 hrs

29 hrs

Quotas of Jews admitted to France
to transit.

Refers to F.O. letter loop (WR 3522/7/48)

Although an increased quota will enlarge the risk of illegal immigration into Palestine, their removal from Germany for outwards is this.

Last Paper.

L 11235 ~~L 23709~~

References.

E 10179/48/9

E 10249/48/9

W.R. 3528/7/48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

While we are very glad to see Jews leaving Germany we are naturally anxious as to their possible destination. If the French were really acting on humanitarian grounds there are plenty of non-Jewish d.p.s who would be glad of the chance to go to France, but the French are doing everything they can to avoid receiving them admitting political dissidents, even for employment in France. However, I do not think that we can do anything about this, since the French will undoubtedly be able to explain away their decision. Perhaps Eastern Dept would like to take over this pp.

A.W. Wilkinson 25
A.W. WILKINSON U

Eastern Dept. I have no objection to taking over this paper, but WR 3528 and 3491 do not really concern us.

J. Cable
(J.E. CABLE)

26/11

I agree. Please re-encode this paper 'E' and attach a copy of our letter to Paris on WR 3528.

A.W. 27/11

(Action completed.)

J.P. 12/12

(Index)

24/11/47

Next Paper.

L 11244

~~L 23715~~

Registry

I agree that no further action is required at present.

Western Dept 3/12
30953 F.O.P.

J. Cable

J. Cable
(J.E. CABLE)

1/12

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72/957/47

Confidential

WA 3714
NOV 1947

British Embassy,
Paris.

19th November, 1947.

WR
99

1241
29

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter (WR 3528/7/48) about the quota of Jews admitted to France in transit.

We feel quite sure that the increase of this quota from 8,000 to 16,000 formed part of the Quai d'Orsay's negotiations with the Ministry of the Interior over receiving back into France the Warfield Jews; the intention having been that the increased quota should be used in part to absorb these Jews when, as we then hoped, they came on from Hamburg. We know too that independently of the Warfield issue the Ministry of the Interior had for a long time been pressing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for an increase in the quota.

The danger is, of course, that with more Jews at large in France there is more risk of their proceeding illegally to Palestine. But those that come in under the quota have to be sponsored by a Jewish agency which in its turn is responsible to the French Government for their observing the conditions under which they are admitted to the country. As we know, this is not a water-tight safeguard but it is better than nothing.

Again you will remember that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Note of 24th October 1947 sent to you under our Printed Despatch No. 906 of 27th October contained the provision that French Consulates in Germany, Austria and Eastern Europe could only give transit visas provided the recipients were furnished with a visa of ultimate destination, duly attested by the authorities of that country. This arrangement appears to us quite worth, from our point of view, the disadvantages of increasing the floating transit quota. It is in any case not very easy to oppose the French proposals for accommodating these people, which they can well defend on humanitarian grounds.

Moreover you may agree that it pays us to get as many as possible of these people out of Germany, though you doubtless weighed this up in writing your letter under reference.

We therefore do not think it is true to say that the concessions outlined in our telegram 251 Saving are offset by the increase in the quota. Be that as it may, however, we would in any case be doubtful about the wisdom of asking for any comments from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as we would certainly be unable to get them to change their decision.

To sum up: although regarded in isolation the increase in the quota is, as you say, an unwelcome development, we feel that in the overall picture it is decidedly outweighed by the concessions we have obtained.

Yours ever,

Chancery.

United Nations (Economic and Social
Department),
Foreign Office,
London. S.W.1.

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FO 371 / 51832

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559	1947	Palestine	E11256 /G
		EASTERN	100

E11256 148/2 31/6
 Rome
 2215
 Dated 28 Nov
 Received 30 Nov.

Illegal immigration : Staff.

Last Paper.
 E11235

(Minutes.)
 Is it definitely decided that this
 will be the 1st of February?
 Gable
 (S.E. CAPHA)
 1/12

References.

No: see attached spec of Tel.
 No. 4126 to N. York.

(Print.)
 (How disposed of.)
 Tel Rome 2658
 17 Dec
 19 Dec
 11P

The official Cttee. in
 Palestine will be taking a
 paper from the working group,
 who are meeting to prepare
 one tomorrow at 11 a.m.
 By Dec. 10 JB Dec. 2

(Action completed) (Index.)
 30/12

The Cabinet have now
 decided that we must
 maintain

Next Paper.

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maintain the existing control
of Jewish ~~immigration~~ in migration
unless we lay down the
mandate. I attach a
draft tel. to Rome in which
Co., MIS and Cabinet office
concur.

Mr Stafford

[Signature]
16/12/49

J. S. Dennis

Dec. 16
(BETIT)

B Dec 16

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Registry
No. E11256/48/19

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

CYPHER

Date 17/12
Despatched 9 p

Draft. Tel.
Rome
TEL. NO. 2658
DATE Dec. 17

SECRET

Dept. No. 1

~~Add. to Rome Tel. No.~~

Cypher

~~of~~

Your tel. No. 2215 [of Nov. 28:
Palestine]

Copies 19/11/18

H.M.G. intend to terminate the Mandate and British Civil Administration in Palestine must plan to maintain on May 15 and present system of control of Jewish immigration ~~cannot~~ ~~be maintained~~ until that date.

Comdr. Evershel
(Cabinet office)

C.O. }
M.I.5 } *concur*

Mr Hafford 16/12/18

Mr. Bevin
Dec. 16

2. I see no objection to your planning to ~~immense~~ reduce special staff engaged on illegal immigration work.
as

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(8800) 11.1.1908/147 75,000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

5/15/18

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1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference: **FO 371** / 61832

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103

as from the beginning of
April.
[Copy sent to Mr. & Secularist]
ABBS
17.12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

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29 NOV 1947

Green
En256 104

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

29 NOV 1947

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet
No. 2215
28th November, 1947.

D. 12.25 p.m. 28th November, 1947.
R. 1.15 p.m. 28th November, 1947.

SECRET

I should be grateful if you would inform me by what date you estimate the situation in Palestine will have developed so far that His Majesty's Government will no longer be playing an active part in preventing clandestine immigration through Italy.

2. As soon as I knew this date, can plan for a substantial reduction in staff both in regard to those engaged in the prevention of clandestine immigration and in regard to security guard.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secetariat].

B B B

NOV 29 1947

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FO 371 / 61832

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E 11256/48/G
Secret
Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 2658

D. 9.00 p.m. 17th December, 1947

17th December, 1947

SECRET

Your telegram No. 2215 [of November 28th: Palestine].

His Majesty's Government intend to terminate the Mandate and British Civil Administration in Palestine on May 15th and must plan to maintain present system of control of Jewish immigration until that date.

2. I see no objection to your planning to reduce special staff engaged on illegal immigration work as from the beginning of April.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

u u u u u

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Reference: **EO** 371 / 61832

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To United Kingdom Delegation to United Nations)

No. 4126 D. 5.10 p.m. 27th November, 1947
27th November, 1947

Repeated to Washington No. 12225
Jerusalem

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Addressed United Kingdom Delegation New York
No. 4126 repeated for information to Jerusalem and
Washington.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Following is summary of the plan of withdrawal:-

(a) Military Withdrawal. Provision is made for series of clear-cut backward moves, northwards from Egyptian frontier, designed to reduce the possibilities of clashes between our troops and Arabs in Arab areas. Areas to be evacuated as follows:-

Phase I

Gaza civil district: by 29th February

Phase II

Jerusalem, Lydda and part of Samaria: by 31st May

Phase III

Remainder of Samaria and Galilee: by 30th June

Phase IV

The remaining enclave round Haifa: by 31st July.

Evacuation/

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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Evacuation of stores, through Haifa and by land to Egypt, will start on 1st December. Care will be taken to cause as little dislocation as possible to trade (particularly citrus trade) and economy of Palestine by overloading rail and port facilities. It is estimated that, even under most favourable conditions, we shall lose nearly 150,000 tons of useful stores.

(b) Withdrawal of Civil Administration. Civil administration would be maintained in Gaza district for as long as possible after military evacuation, with object of safeguarding the routes to Egypt. Existing civil administration would be maintained over the rest of the country until towards end of Phase II, i.e. 15th May, when Mandate would be terminated. Thereafter it is contemplated that certain civil administrative staffs would be retained in areas still occupied by our troops and would give all assistance possible to military authority, who would control occupied areas only to extent needed for efficient conduct of withdrawal.

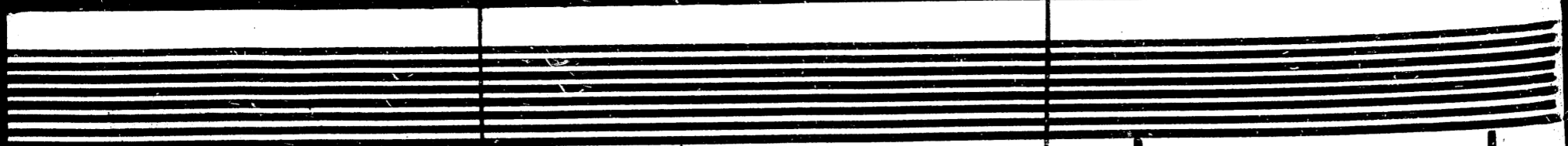
2. Under this plan it will be impossible for military to take any steps in Palestine to prevent illegal immigration after 1st February, though Navy will do their best to continue to intercept ships. No announcement of any change of policy will be made.

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Palestine

E11289/G
DEC 1947
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EASTERN

560

E11289/48/C

Las Tampus

Alexandria
21

Dated 29 Nov
Received 1 Dec

Last Paper.

E11256

References.

E11009/48/C

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

PJP ✓ 2 Dec

(Action completed.)

1/12

(Index.)

1/12

Next Paper.

I. I. P. (Minutes.)

This is a suspect ship, which the Egyptians mistakenly allowed to take on coal. They have now unloaded the coal again, which is eminently satisfactory.

Egyptian Dept.

2/12

It is, of course, in the interest of the Egyptians to prevent, by any means they can, the illegal immigration of Jews into Palestine. Where their interest is involved they are most co-operative with H.M.G.

S. Howard
4/12

4/12

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Free

1 DEC 1947

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

109

Cypher/OTP

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's
Consul-General,
No. 21.
November 29th, 1947.

D. 6.50.p.m. November 29th, 1947.
R. 5.50.p.m. November 29th, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 12,
Senior Naval Officer Port Said.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 21 November
30th repeated Cairo telegram No. 12 and Senior Naval Officer
Port Said.

My telegram No. 20.

Confidential.

Las Tanplas.

Coal has now been unloaded.

RECEIVED IN O.B.
11 DEC 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
11 DEC 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Consul.
No. 20. D. 7.15 p.m. 24th November, 1947.
24th November, 1947. R. 7.07 p.m. 24th November, 1947.

Repeated to Cairo No. 12,
Senior Naval Officer Port Said.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Reference immediately preceding telegram:
suspected shipping.

Egyptian authorities and supplying firm
propose unloading coal from ship. I will
report whether this is done.

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FO 371 / 61832

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561 1247	Palestine EASTERN	E11299/G 1 DEC 1947 ///
<p>E11299/48/31/G Cabinet Offices. Cos (48) 11/12/47 Item 9. November 24/47</p>	<p>Illegal Immigration Ships.</p>	
<p>Last Paper E11289.</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> 2/2</p>	
<p>References</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed) 25/2/12</p>	<p>(Index) <i>[Signature]</i></p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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EO 371 / 61832

Handwritten: G.O.S. (47) 146th Mtg. E 48

Handwritten: FO see Nov 1947 (inter)

7. PREPARATION OF JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SHIPS

(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (47) 138th Mtg. Min. 4)
C.O.S. (47) 129.

Handwritten: 112

THE COMMITTEE had before them a letter from the Illegal Immigration Working Party of the Palestine Official Committee reporting the position on their recommendation, agreed at the above quoted meeting, that the B.B.C. be approached to obtain publicity for the preparatory activities for Jewish Illegal immigrant ships in Black Sea ports.

SIR JOHN EDELSTEN said the Admiralty considered it most important that all possible publicity should be given to this matter and he felt the Illegal Immigration Working Party should be urged to ensure that everything possible was done. He proposed, therefore, to instruct the Admiralty representative on that Committee accordingly.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Took note of the letter from the Illegal Immigration Working Party of the Palestine Official Committee and of the statement above by the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.

Handwritten: E11299

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1947
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Palestine
EASTERN

E11303 /G
DEC 1947
114

E11303 /48 /C³¹
Brussels Chances
to Eastern Dept.
10/56 at
November 20th

Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper
E11302

References
E3755 /48 /C

(Print)

(How disposed of)
3) Mr. Nigham e.o.
Mr. Schen H.I.S.
10th Dec.

(Action completed)	(Index)
25 10/12	11/24

Next Paper

(Minutes)
I agree that no further action
is required. Refer to: C.O. (Mr. Higham)
H.I.S. (Mr. Schen)
Western Dept.
10/15 Dec.
3/12

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Reference:
FO 371 / 61832

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1 DEC 1947

BRITISH EMBASSY

BRUSSELS.

E 11303

115'

4 pm

10/56/47.

26th November, 1947.

SECRET.

Dear Eastern Department,

With reference to your secret letter (E.3755/48/G) of 21st May, 1947, we have now received a note from the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, a copy of which is enclosed, commenting on the Memorandum which was left with Spaak by Knatchbull-Hugessen on the subject of a trainload of Jews suspected of intending to enter Palestine illegally.

At the same time we have made unofficial investigations with the Sûreté de l'Etat. It appears that Belgian exit permits were granted to these Jews by the Police des Etrangers, without consulting the Sûreté. The Police des Etrangers is an independent organisation roughly equivalent to the British Aliens Department, but apparently includes some sympathisers with the Zionists. They should not, however, have issued exit permits without consulting the Sûreté, and the latter inform us that they have taken steps to see that this does not happen again. The Sûreté now have also instructed the gendarmerie to see that parties do not leave the country unless they have exit permits endorsed with Sûreté authority.

In the past, the Belgian authorities have taken adequate precautions to stop suspect embarkation by sea, but they had not realised that mass departures over the French frontier were equally suspect.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

/It

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-2-

It appears that many of the Jewish Refugee camps in Belgium are now empty and that this country is not being used, as before, as a rallying point for intending illegal immigrants into Palestine. It is mainly thanks to the great help the Sûreté have given us in dealing with this problem that this result has been attained.

There are, nevertheless, numerous Jewish agents intriguing in Belgium at the present moment. The departures in question were handled by an overt organisation known as the JEWISH REFUGEES WELFARE SOCIETY (OEUVRE DE PROTECTION DES REFUGIES JUIFS, 27, Rue du Lac, Brussels), but the HAGANAH agents Zeew CATZ and Fajga FERELMAN were acting behind the scenes.

While it is obvious that the reply of the Ministère des Affaires Etrangères is not satisfactory, we do not think it would serve any purpose to prolong the debate. The action taken by the Sûreté following these incidents should be as good a safeguard as we can hope for the future.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

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Bruxelles le 10 novembre, 1947.

NOTE.

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
ET DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE C.
6e Bureau P.
No. 2202/Pr/347.

Le Département des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur de faire savoir à l'Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne à Bruxelles, comme suite à son memorandum du 9 juin 1947, communiquant des extraits d'un rapport de la Sécurité britannique en Palestine, au sujet d'immigrants juifs cherchant à pénétrer illégalement dans ce pays, qu'il résulte de l'enquête instituée par les autorités compétentes que deux trains spéciaux ont effectivement été formés, le 30 mars, 1947, l'un à Enghien et l'autre à Ciney, pour assurer le transport de réfugiés apatrides à destination de Marseille.

Il a été allégué par les organisateurs de ces convois qu'à Marseille, ces réfugiés devaient s'embarquer pour la Colombie.

Dans ces conditions, il ne pouvait être question pour les autorités belges de refuser aux intéressés le visa de sortie de la Belgique.

Ambassade de Grande-Bretagne,
à BRUXELLES.

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<p>1947 565</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E11343 /G 119</p>
<p>E11343/48/9 3/6 Chancery Bucharest to E Dept 349/204/47 dated 24 Nov Received 9 Dec.</p>	<p>Pandelis Sailing Office</p>	
<p>Last Paper E11308</p>	<p>(Minutes) copy to Mr. Selver M.I.5 3/12</p>	
<p>References E10181/48/9.</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of) 8) Mr. Selver M.I.5 Dec 6.</p>		
<p>(Action completed) 25/12</p>	<p>(Index) M.I.5</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

2 DEC 1947

10. Phe

E11343

120

British Legation,

Bucharest.

24th November 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

349/204/47

Dear Department,

Your letter (E 10181/48/G) of 8th November about Pandelis.

2. There appears to have been a slip in the transmission of our telegram No. 959 to which you refer. Paragraph 2 of our text reads "A member of the staff of Pandelis Bucharest Office" etc. and not the "Pandelis Sailing Office" which you apparently received.
3. Jean Demetinos Pandelis has an office at 95, Calea Victoriei, Bucharest. He has three associates, Miki Cocinos and Andre and Vasil Musu (Moussou), all Greeks.
4. Jean D. Pandelis is at present in New York but is expected back in Paris within a week or so.
5. There are good grounds for believing that Pandelis is not as popular with the Jewish organisers of this traffic as he was. His offers made to Averbuch (the organiser of the illegal traffic by sea from Roumania) for a ship to follow the Pan Crescent and York Crescent are said to have been turned down bluntly.
6. These two steamers are being served by Sterie Dallas at Constantza and not by Syngros who is Pandelis' manager at Constantza.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

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1947

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PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 11432/48/31

FROM

40 Minute

No.

M'Barrow

Dated

22 Nov

Received in Registry

4 Dec

Publicity re Illegal Immigration
Statement on Publicity on the Organization
of Illegal Immigration.
Also memo on the Organization of Illegal
Immigration.

Last Paper

11388

(Minutes.)

References

J.P.P. 40 Minute, Sir O. Jorgens 27/11
- J.P.P. " 28/11

Letter to Mr. Higham C.O.

(Print)

News Dept a/a

(How disposed of)

Sgt. Higham

from M'Barrow

Dec 5

Comp. checked.

10 copies

Peters

Dec 6

We will consult again if
the "P.A.R.S." said as to whether we
can use any or all of this
as background.

Shaw (P. Fenwick) 16/12

18/12

(Action completed)

22/12

(Index)

29/1/48

Next Paper

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White E

123

The Secretary of State's minute reads as follows:-

"This paper is well done and I am grateful for it. But I do not think this will help us. It will tend to advertise this movement and those doing it will be looked upon as heroes defeating a great power. Now we are getting to the end we had better forget it.

E.B."

28th November, 1947.

Mills

1.12

Mr. Bunnings GAB B

Mr. Carter 1.12
2/12

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4 DEC

PUBLICITY ON THE ORGANIZATION OF JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

In a Parliamentary Question on the 19th November the Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked if he would make "a statement setting out the facts known to His Majesty's Government concerning the financing and organization of illegal immigration into Palestine".

flag A

A detailed statement designed for circulation in the official report was drafted by the inter-departmental working party on Jewish Illegal Immigration and submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Creech Jones decided, however, after consulting the Secretary of State, that this was not an appropriate moment for making such a statement in the House of Commons and replied to Mr. Shepherd accordingly.

flag B

flag A

2. Use might now be made of the Draft Statement, the first comprehensive survey of Jewish Illegal Immigration since the setting up of the Cyprus camps, in other ways. The most profitable methods of employing it would appear to be:-

- (a) to communicate it officially to the United States Government.
- (b) to arrange its publication in the United States and British Press either as an "inspired" or, preferably, an official Statement.
- (c) to give it general distribution through the London Press Service. If it is decided to publicise the statement by all or any of these means, this could either be done now and linked with the recent resolution on the subject of Illegal Immigration by the General Assembly of the United Nations, or else held in reserve until the sailing of the "PAN YORK" and

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II.

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resolution passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 17th November, of which the relevant passage reads:

"The General Assembly invites member states not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in the promoting or operating of illegal immigration or any activities designed to promote illegal immigration"

We could ^{thus} avoid the appearance of suddenly raising this issue on our own initiative as a red herring. The United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations, whom we consulted about the proposed reply to the Parliamentary Question, thought effective use could be made of such a statement at the United Nations and North American Department agree that it would be useful in the United States.

PARIS

22.11

This is a full and frank statement. I agree with Mr. Burrows that the balance of argument lies in favour of putting it out. But we might first telegraph the text to Washington and New York and ask them whether they agree or have any suggestions to make.

If the statement is to be put out the best form would I think be in reply to a P.Q., which could easily be arranged.

Mr. L. Knight

25th November, 1947.

Sir O. Sargent.

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Parliamentary Question on Jewish Illegal Immigration:Extract from Hansard for 19th November.

Mr. Shepherd asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will make a statement 'setting out the facts known to His Majesty's Government concerning the financing and organization of illegal immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Creech Jones: His Majesty's Government are in possession of a great deal of information about this traffic, but I regret that I do not consider that it would be opportune to make a detailed statement at the moment when the main problem of Palestine is under close discussion by the United Nations.

Mr. Shepherd: Is it not desirable, in view of the allegations which have been made against us, that we should give to the world all the facts now in our possession about this traffic? (No further reply was made by Mr. Creech Jones).

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The Organization of Jewish Illegal Immigration to Palestine.

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Since the end of the war 49 ships carrying over 45,000 illegal immigrants have arrived off the coast of Palestine. All except one of these were despatched by Bricha, the Immigration Branch of the Hagana, the illegal Jewish militia in Palestine. His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the Hagana acts for this purpose under the direction and guidance of the Jewish Agency through some hundreds of envoys in Europe whose activities are directed from a network of offices established throughout the Continent, where legitimate rehabilitation and resettlement work often goes on side by side with the organisation of illegal immigration. Hagana's illegal immigration headquarters is in Palestine. Its main offices in Western Europe are in Paris and Milan; it has other important offices in Prague, Bratislava Budapest and Vienna.

One of the primary functions of the Hagana organisation in Europe is to select suitable candidates for immigration. Humanitarian considerations play little part in this process. On the contrary, for political reasons, Hagana frequently incites and intimidates peaceful citizens to abandon their homes by playing on the fear of what the future may hold. The main line adopted in this intensive Zionist propaganda is the stimulation of the idea that Palestine is the only possible goal of Jews throughout the world. The aim of the organizers is to provide a healthy stock capable of redressing the adverse racial balance in Palestine. Fixed quotas of immigrants are allocated to the various Zionist political parties. This process gives rise to constant internal discord; the Revisionist Parties of the Right continually complain that they are not given a fair share of the places on board the ships.

Recruiting agents for the terrorist groups are also active throughout Central Europe and although Hagana have publicly condemned these so-called "dissidents" large quantities of Irgun Zvai Leumi propaganda material and membership leaflets were found on board the s.s. Farida - a Hagana ship - which arrived in Palestine waters on 27th September, 1947.

The illegal immigrants make their way across Europe by certain well-defined routes, accompanied by Hagana agents, to assembly areas near convenient ports of embarkation. Movements on this scale would not be possible without considerable assistance from outside bodies. The most notable of these is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, an organisation that engages to a considerable extent in legitimate activities, but without whose assistance the exodus to Palestine could not take place. British observers have frequently reported A.J.J.D.C. lorries full of Jews in Austria and Italy following routes which it is known are the main lines of the "Palestine Underground". These lorries have U.S. Army markings and the drivers wear American style uniforms. Local police and customs authorities are not unnaturally reluctant to take any action against what appears to be official transport of the Occupation Authorities.

On arrival at the coast embarkation may be either clandestine or overt. At a friendly port the embarkation is overt, usually but not always under cover of an ostensible

voyage/

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voyage to some destination such as Alexandria, Istanbul or some Latin American country. That the authorities concerned do not always exercise reasonable vigilance in checking the authenticity of visas and travel documents is illustrated by the fact that passengers on board two ships which recently left a Bulgarian port are stated to have had visas for the Lebanon, Syria, Persia and Egypt. Among other countries whose visas have been forged are Ethiopia, Bolivia, San Salvador, Costa Rica, Columbia and Mexico.

Overt embarkation can of course only take place with the connivance of the authorities concerned. Measures taken by the French and Italian Governments have increased the difficulties of this method. Clandestine embarkation, usually at night, is now often resorted to. News of these embarkations frequently reaches the local authorities too late to be of any use but the Italian police have, on occasion, been able to break up parties before they have embarked and it will be recalled that an attempt by some 600 Jews was recently frustrated by the prompt action of the Algerian authorities. On at least one occasion elsewhere the Jews have been able, by a show or force, to intimidate the local inhabitants and security forces and to effect an embarkation despite the attempts of the local authorities to intervene.

The acquisition of ships is carried out through diverse channels by methods which seem designed to put as much money as possible into the hands of disreputable agents. The general practice is for the organisers to procure an agent to buy a suitable vessel from an owner. The organisers then pay the agent, (delivery having been effected at a fitting out port) at a greatly enhanced price. Among the most notorious of the purchasing agents are Stefano D'Andria, Jean Pandelis, Jean Eliadis and Emanuel Fostinis who make use of the services of Ginesta and Company of Marseilles for fitting out and provisioning their ships prior to departure for Palestine. This Company has acted as agents for at least 12 ships which have arrived in Palestine waters with illegal immigrants and is now acting as agents for at least 8 ships in European ports now preparing to sail. When ships are procured in America they are usually acquired by "mushroom" companies such as the Weston Trading Company of New York which financed the PRESIDENT WARFIELD, NORTHLANDS AND TRADE WINDS. These companies disappear from the scene as soon as they have served their immediate purpose which is to give a cover of respectability to the venture and to secure registration of the vessel concerned under a national flag. The ships themselves are largely provisioned with American Army surplus stocks transferred to the A.J.J.D.C. or other relief organisations, and our naval boarding parties find that one of the commonest weapons used against them is the American canned meat tin.

All this organisation has been extremely costly. At the Zionist Congress held in Basle in December, 1946, the budget passed for the succeeding two years amounted to 14 million pounds, which was double the total amount for the seven years 1939/46 and was the largest budget in Zionist history. Although naturally no mention is made of funds for illegal immigration the budget is of course the source of the funds of the Jewish Agency. The organisations responsible for illegal immigration could not however subsist

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without additional contributions from abroad on a very large scale. These funds are mainly contributed by Zionist sympathisers in the United States of America. The Hagana also sponsors special appeals for funds through advertisements in the American Press which draw attention to the fact that the sums collected, being for "charitable" purposes, will be free from United States tax. According to Hagana's own statement to the Press in June, 1947, the cost of transporting one refugee across the Mediterranean is \$160 while it costs another \$40 to get the refugee over-land from Germany to the port of embarkation.

Further funds are raised by groups bitterly jealous of and opposed to Hagana such as the American League for a Free Palestine and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation. These organisations have so far only succeeded in sending one ship, the ABRIL, to Palestine despite the large funds they claim to have raised. There is no doubt that a considerable proportion of the monies collected by these two bodies are diverted to the terrorist organisations, whom they openly incite to further outrages.

Despite its complex organisation and ample funds the Hagana could not succeed in despatching ships to Palestine if the maritime countries concerned and the countries through which the Jews must pass on their way to the sea, were prepared to cooperate by taking the measures required by the situation. His Majesty's Government have always held that they are entitled, by virtue of the United Nations Resolution of the 15th May, 1947 calling on Governments and peoples to refrain from acts calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine, to expect full cooperation from Member States. Such co-operation would not, in most cases, entail more than the proper enforcement of existing legislation, closer control of frontiers, a stricter scrutiny of passports and visas and the application to the unseaworthy and overcrowded vessels employed in this traffic of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and that concerning Load-Lines. In addition His Majesty's Government have asked Member States to deny to vessels engaged in this traffic fuel, provisions surplus to the crews requirements, and the protection of their national flag. Since nearly all the countries concerned are suffering from acute shortages of food and fuel, and all are presumably anxious to maintain the prestige of their national flags, these requests are hardly unreasonable.

Nevertheless vessels continue to arrive in Palestine waters flying the flags of Member States, having drawn provisions and fuel from the ports of Member States whose regulations they have, in the process, not infrequently flouted. The flag which has recently been most favoured by the organisers is that of Panama which has been worn by 10 ships. Since the end of 1945 some 19 vessels have left Italian ports, while at least 13 have left French ports. Recently the focus of the traffic has tended to shift to Roumania and Bulgaria. The situation here is indeed interesting in that, as recently as May this year, the Roumanian Democratic Jewish Front, which embodies all Jewish associations supporting the Government, issued a declaration denouncing the "criminal actions of certain factions which encourage the anarchic immigration of Jews". The declaration stated that families had sold all their worldly possessions to leave, only to find they are penniless and abandoned in neighbouring countries. Jewish Revisionist leaders in Roumania who were the most ardent protagonists of immigration were warned that this illegal traffic must stop. The

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Governments of these countries have hitherto discouraged illegal immigration on the grounds that there was no danger of persecution to Jewish people in their territories. The recent departure of two shiploads from Varna and the presence at Constanza of two large Panamanian ships, PAN CRESCENT and PAN YORK, which are known to be preparing to set out for Palestine, seem to indicate a change of attitude on the part of the Governments concerned.

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PUBLICITY ON THE ORGANIZATION
OF JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

In a Parliamentary Question on the 19th November the Secretary of State for the Colonies was asked if he would make "a statement setting out the facts known to His Majesty's Government concerning the financing and organization of illegal immigration into Palestine".

flag A

A detailed statement designed for circulation in the official report was drafted by the inter-departmental working party on Jewish Illegal Immigration and submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Creech Jones decided, however, after consulting the Secretary of State, that this was not an appropriate moment for making such a statement in the House of Commons and replied to Mr. Shepherd accordingly.

flag B

flag A

2. Use might now be made of the Draft Statement, the first comprehensive survey of Jewish Illegal Immigration since the setting up of the Cyprus camps, in other ways. The most profitable methods of employing it would appear to be:-

- (a) to communicate it officially to the United States Government.
- (b) to arrange its publication in the United States and British Press either as an "inspired" or, preferably, an official Statement.
- (c) to give it general distribution through the London Press Service. If it is decided to publicise the statement by all or any of these means, this could either be done now and linked with the recent resolution on the subject of Illegal Immigration by the General Assembly of the United Nations, or else held in reserve until the sailing of the "PAN YORK" and

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and "PAN CRESCENT" which will certainly stimulate considerable public interest in this question.

3. The advantages of giving publicity to this statement would be:

- (a) it would tend to strengthen the hand of the United States Government, who have recently started to give us more effective cooperation in preventing illegal immigration; but who are still nervous of American public opinion.
- (b) it would present from our point of view to the United States public before they are assailed by the flood of hostile propaganda which will inevitably be called forth if, as we expect, the "PAN CRESCENT" and "PAN YORK" are intercepted in Palestine waters, with some 16,000 Jewish Illegal Immigrants on board.
- (c) it will at once draw attention to and supplement the United Nations resolution on illegal immigration, which might otherwise pass unnoticed.

4. At the present juncture certain/^{dis}advantages to such publicity could also be foreseen:

- (a) the issue of an official statement on Jewish Illegal Immigration at a time when His Majesty's Government is already being accused of deliberately obstructing the establishment of a Jewish state might be misinterpreted as an attempt to distract attention from the main problem and to focus it on a side issue unfavourable to the Jews.
- (b) public interest in the question has recently tended to subside and our statement might not now receive as much attention as it would, for instance, after the prospective arrival of the "PAN YORK" and "PAN CRESCENT".

5. On the whole, I consider that publicity should be given to this statement now; by explicit reference to the

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II.

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resolution passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 17th November, of which the relevant passage reads:

"The General Assembly invites member states not to accord aid and protection to individuals or organizations which are engaged in the promoting or operating of illegal immigration or any activities designed to promote illegal immigration"

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Parliamentary Question on Jewish Illegal Immigration:
Extract from Hansard for 19th November.

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Nevertheless vessels continue to arrive in Palestine waters flying the flags of Member States, having drawn provisions and fuel from the ports of Member States whose regulations they have, in the process, not infrequently flouted. The flag which has recently been most favoured by the organisers is that of Panama which has been worn by 10 ships. Since the end of 1945 some 19 vessels have left Italian ports, while at least 15 have left French ports. Recently the focus of the traffic has tended to shift to Roumania and Bulgaria. The situation here is indeed interesting in that, as recently as May this year, the Roumanian Democratic Jewish Front, which embodies all Jewish associations supporting the Government, issued a declaration denouncing the "criminal actions of certain factions which encourage the anarchic immigration of Jews". The declaration stated that families had sold all their worldly possessions to leave, only to find they are penniless and abandoned in neighbouring countries. Jewish Revisionist leaders in Roumania who were the most ardent protagonists of immigration were warned that this illegal traffic must stop. The

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Registry
No. E 11432/48/31

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J.R.C.

Draft.

J.D.
Mr. Higham
^ c.o.

from
J.E.
Mr. Gable

Copies to:

Cabinet Office (Ed. Searle)
Adly. (Mr. Dodds)
N.I.S. (Mr. Schen)

RECEIVED IN DIVISION	
22 DEC 1947	
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OUT FILE

5 Mr

K40

5 Mr
Dec

Dear Higham,

As I told you on the
telephone, we have been
considering the possibility of
using ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~abortion~~ ^{the abortion}
reply ~~drafted~~ ^{by the Working}
~~Party~~ ^{to Mr. Shepherd's Parliamentary}
^(on illegal immigration) ~~Question~~ which was drafted by
the Working Party, for general
publicity here and in the
U.S.A.

2. The Secretary of State,
while expressing his ~~gratitude~~
appreciation of the Working Party's
~~modest~~ ^{modest} ~~offer~~ ^{offer}, decided that its
employment at present would
be inopportune. ~~and would I~~ ^I fear

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.S.

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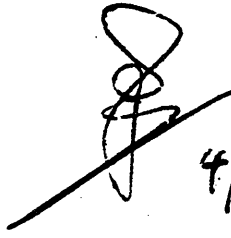
Reference:

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I fear, therefore, that ^{our} masterpiece will ~~never~~ ^{not, after all,} see the light of day.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Dodds, Emshead and Schen.


4/12

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) J. E. Cable

141

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 / 61832

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OUT FILE

K12

(B 11432/43/31)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

5th December, 1947.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Higham,

As I told you on the telephone, we have been considering the possibility of using the abortive reply to Mr. Shepherd's Parliamentary question on illegal immigration which was drafted by the Working Party, for general publicity here and in the United States of America.

2. The Secretary of State, while expressing his appreciation of the Working Party's recommendations, decided that its employment at present would be inopportune. I fear, therefore, that our masterpiece will not, after all, see the light of day.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Dodds, Evershed and Schlen.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) (J.M. Cable)

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

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143

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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Piece61832.....

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E11571/48/31

and closed until.....1998.....

*delete as necessary

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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301 LAST 299

E

11585 ¹²⁴

9 DEC

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E11585/48/31
 FROM } G.A. Crossley
 No. } Paris
 Dated } 4th Dec 46.
 Received in Registry } 2 Dec
 9

"President Winfield"
 The President Winfield issue has again appeared in the shape of posters measuring 9'x6' headed "appel au peuple britannique" gives summary of contents of posters.

Last Paper
 11485
~~11485~~

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

G.A. 23/12

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

11605

(Minutes.)

The French communists are somewhat late in following the party line on this issue, doubtless owing to other preoccupations. I think we should ignore this

Western Dept. 1/11 Dec.
 Northern Dept. 22/12
 Inf. Policy Dept. 1/12
 RAB 24/12

[Signature]
 (C.F. CABLE)

9/12

A bit out of date, as Mr Cable says. I can't understand quite why this should have been dragged out again at this stage

HB Dec. 10
 Signatories not all Communists by any means
 C. Cable
 16/12

[Signature]
 22/12

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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111585
9 DEC

British Embassy,
Paris.

105

2nd December, 1947.

Dear James,

The "President Warfield" issue again reared its ugly head in Paris yesterday with the appearance of posters measuring 9' x 6' headed "Appel au peuple britannique". The contents of the poster might be summarised as follows. "The British people, who are a great and free people, and who for so long fought alone for their freedom must be told of the horror we feel at the policy of their Government in connection with the passengers of the "Exodus 1947". Over 4,000 Jews, having escaped from the extermination camps, were sailing towards their place of refuge: the country in which in 1917 the British Government promised them a home, when they were seized by the British vessels. They were then sent in "bateaux-cages" to Hamburg where they were disembarked "à coups de matraque et en musique" before a sneering crowd of Germans who were saying to themselves "Why did they fight and punish us? They are no better than we". In spite of the inhumanity of the orders given by the British Government and the harshness of their execution this is not true when one takes into account the gas chambers and the torturings, but the British Government should live up to the principles it professes to hold and should bear in mind the moral effects of its actions. The British Government is betraying its past and its future in order to protect what it considers to be interests of Empire. All the oil in Arabia will not wipe out the stain of this deed. We are thinking not only of the Jews but of the British people. We say to the British Government: "Become human again to justify your strength. Remember that we form part of one civilisation and that in Germany your abasement will be ours!"

This effort is signed by some twenty people, mainly men of letters and Communists, among whom I noted Louis Aragon and his wife Elsa Triolet, Claude Aveline, Jean Casson, Paul Eluard, Geneviève de Gaulle, Francis Jourdain, M. Le Corbissier, Henri Malherbe Roger Martin du Gard, Henri Matisse, Rémy Roure, Vercors and Henri Wallon.

Yours ever, *G.A. Crossley*
G.A. Crossley.

J.E. Cable Esq.

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Reference: **EO 371 / 51832**

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE 146

Group.....Fo.....

Class371.....

Piece61832.....

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E11605, 4831

and closed until.....1978.....

*delete as necessary

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147

Group Fo

Class 371

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E 11606 / 48 / 31

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

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704

148

E

E 11626

1947

PALESTINE

9 DEC

Registry Number

E 11626/48/31

FROM

M. Sherwood

No.

Rabat

Dated

11/19/43

Received in Registry

25 Nov

9 Dec

North Africa, Illegal Immigration
Refer to Gitty (E 8621/48/31) again discussed question with head of expatriate district last week who int'd that authorities had not yet obtained any definite information about organisations operating in the French zone. They were however continuing investigation.

Last Paper

11606

(Minutes.)

copy to Mr. Schen M.I. 5

References

Western Dept.

J 10/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

S. Schen. M.I. 5
✓ Dec 18

(Action completed)

18/12/47

(Initials)

29/1/48

Next Paper

E 4632

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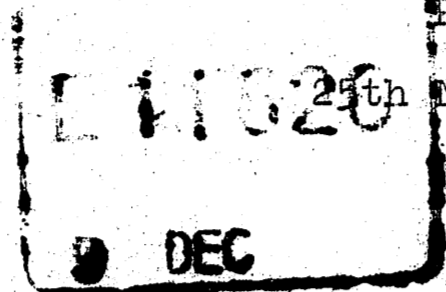
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Reference: FO 371/61832

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,

R A B A T.

41/19/43.
RESTRICTED



Dear Department,

With reference to your letter E 8621/48/31 of September 30th regarding Jewish Illegal Immigrant Organisations in the French Zone of Morocco, I again discussed this question with the Head of the Diplomatic Cabinet last week. He informed me that the authorities had not yet obtained any definite information about organisations operating in the French Zone. They were, however, continuing their investigations and would keep me informed.

The Head of the Diplomatic Cabinet assured me that the authorities were doing all they could to prevent illegal Jewish emigration from the French Zone. A careful watch was being kept at all the ports and on the Moroccan-Algerian frontier. As regards the latter, he pointed out that the frontier guards had been reinforced, but a frontier such as that between Algeria and Morocco was extremely difficult to watch.

I mentioned that the Italian schooner "Giovanni Maria" had recently made an unsuccessful attempt to embark immigrants from the coast of Algeria and that of the Jews left behind no less than 547 out of 596 were from Morocco. He has promised to look into this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Paris, Algiers and Casablanca.

Yours ever,

J. Sherwood

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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570 1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E11632 /G
10 DEC 1947 150

E11632 148 1
31/G

F.O. Min

Dated 5 Dec
Received 10 Dec

Withdrawal from Palestine:
Illegal immigration

Conversation of S. of S. with
Mr Marshall on 4 Dec.

Last Paper

E11606

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel. No 101 12609
5 Dec

Rpts New York 4214
Moscow 3662
Cairo 2219
Bagdad 1134
Beirut 751
Damascus 611
Izraida 508
Amman 543
Jerusalem
P.T.O.

(Action completed)

25/12/12

(Index)

W.H.

Next Paper

(Minutes)

~~See within
Washington 2809~~

See amended version of
the discussion within.

Draft tel. to Washn.

D. C. Sims
Dec. 10
(BEITH)

PAB

10.12

1 C.R.O. commd

954 to Dominion Govt. Dec. 6th

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

151

8) C.O.
H. Defence
Mr. Luke Cab Off
9 Dec

Del) W/Ka
no 2826.
Dec. 11.

Rpta
UK del New York 1268
Moscow 3735
Cairo 2247.
Bagdad 1155
Beirut 769
Damascus 626
Fedda no 518
Amman 558.
Jerusalem

copied

9) C.O.
M/Ref.
Cab. Off (Mr. Luke)
Dec. 12.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

Mr. Boyle
with amendments in margin
152

A copy of this record was communicated informally to the U.S. Ambassador, at whose request certain amendments have been inserted, which are indicated by underlining in the attached revised version.

West
3/23

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Reference:

FO 371 / 51832

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Eastern Dept

153

SECRET

REVISED

ANGLO-AMERICAN CONVERSATIONS

PALESTINE

The Secretary of State raised the question of Palestine in the course of a discussion at the United States Ambassador's residence on December 4th with Mr. Marshall, at which Mr. Douglas and I were present.

The Secretary of State handed Mr. Marshall an informal note on the plans and intentions of His Majesty's Government regarding the transfer of power in Palestine. He added that it should not be supposed that the withdrawal of the British Administration and Forces was an easy matter. Various arrangements had to be made and we had to make provision for British assets in the country. He laid particular stress on the importance of stopping any further illegal immigration. It was bound to lead to bloodshed, since the Arabs would undoubtedly be incited to massacre the Jews, and the situation might then require the use of force. The United States Government might then find themselves required to provide forces and the Soviet Government might press to provide a force. Would the United States Government like this? Mr. Marshall admitted that the greatest fear of the United States Military authorities in regard to this question was the presence of a Russian force in Palestine. The Secretary of State, continuing, said that if on the other hand Jewish immigration ceased until we were ready to hand over the Administration to the United Nations Commission in May, it would be possible to proceed in an orderly way. We should then hope to be able to introduce into Palestine the illegal immigrants now in Cyprus, numbering nearly 30,000, and we might also be able to provide a port on the Palestine coast for the introduction of legal immigrants after the taking over by the United Nations Commission. We should also be able, in the period between now and May, to stop the infiltration of Jews across the frontiers. The Secretary of State considered that it was not safe to leave this situation to the United Nations Commission, but an understanding regarding the problems of the transfer of power was required between the United States Government and ourselves.

Mr. Marshall said that he could not believe that the Jews would any longer proceed with illegal immigration, since it must be a dead loss to them and would be of no pressure value.

The Secretary of State questioned this. He had no confidence in the Jewish Agency, to whom illegal immigration would still seem to have a pressure value; their object would be to cause incidents and keep their cause alive. He urged that the United States Government should restrain the Jewish Agency from these courses and if possible arrange for some public announcement, condemning illegal immigration and urging the Jews to remain patient. Such a step would incidentally steady the Arabs.

Mr. Marshall/

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Reference: **FO 371** / 81832

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- 2 -

Mr. Marshall said that he would send a message to Washington in the general sense advocated by the Secretary of State. He remarked that the Russians would be unwilling to take any statement regarding alien immigration which would imply any responsibility for it on their part.

P.J. DIXON.

4th December, 1947.

Distribution:

- Secretary of State.
- Private Secretary (for file).
- Sir O. Sargent.
- Mr. Wright.
- Eastern Department.
- Mr. Mayhew.
- N. American Dept.

Secretary of State for
the Colonies.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

CYPHER

BSS

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No. E

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SECRET

F.O.,
10 DEC 1947

December 1947

J.E.C.

Despatched 5:35 A M.

Draft.

WASHINGTON

Telegram.

No. 12609

(Date) Dec 5

Repeat to :-

United Kingdom
Delegation to the
United Nations,
NEW YORK. No 4214

Moscow No 3663
Cairo No 2219
Bagdad No 1134

J.E.C. (J.E. CABLE)

Beirut No 751
Damascus No 611
Jedda No 508
Amman No 543
Cypher. Jerusalem

Distribution :-

GABINET

Dip. Secy

Copies to :-

C.O.
Mr. J. Deane
Mr. Lyke (Lab. Off.)

Addressed Washington telegram No. 12609

December 5th. Repeated for information to

United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations,
New York, Moscow, Jerusalem, Cairo, Bagdad,
Beirut, Damascus, Jedda,
Amman

I raised the question of Palestine with
Mr. Marshall on 4th December, when I handed
him an informal note on our plans and intentions
regarding the transfer of power in Palestine.

I added that the withdrawal of the British
Administration and forces was no easy matter.
Various arrangements had to be made and we had
to make provision for British assets in the
country. I laid particular stress on the
importance of preventing further illegal

immigration, which was bound to lead to blood-
shed, since Arabs would undoubtedly be incited
to massacre Jews and the situation might then
require the use of force. The United States
Government might then find themselves required
to provide forces and the Soviet Government
might press to provide a force themselves.

Mr. Marshall admitted that the greatest fear of
United States Military Authorities in this
connexion was the presence of a Russian force
in Palestine. I pointed out that if, on the
other hand, Jewish immigration ceased until we
were ready to hand over the administration to
the United Nations Commission in May, it would
be possible to proceed in an orderly manner.

We/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Stop

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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We should then hope to be able to ^{introduce} ~~induce~~ into Palestine the 16,000 odd illegal immigrants now in Cyprus and we might also be able to provide a port for ~~illegal~~ immigration after the United Nations Commission had taken over. We should ~~be~~ ^{be} also able, in the period between now and May, to stop the infiltration of Jews across the frontiers. I said that this situation could not safely be left ~~to~~ ^{to} the United Nations Commission, but that an understanding regarding the problems of the transfer of power was required between the United States Government and ourselves.

2. Mr. Marshall did not believe the Jews would continue illegal immigration, since it must be a dead loss to them and of no pressure value. I questioned this, explaining that I had no confidence in the Jewish Agency, who would probably continue illegal immigration in order to cause incidents and keep their cause alive. I urged that the United States Government should restrain them and, if possible, publicly condemn illegal immigration and urge Jews to be patient. Such a step would incidentally steady the Arabs.

3. Mr. Marshall promised to send a message to Washington in the general sense of my remarks but pointed out that United States Government would be unwilling to take any step which implied that they had responsibility for the Palestine question.

4. You should take the necessary supporting action with State Dept

[Copy sent to M. G. Leet]
M. G. Leet

5.12.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.] 157

~~SECRET~~
Secret
Cypher/OTP

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 12609

D. 5.35 a.m. 6th December, 1947.

5th December, 1947.

Repeated to : United Kingdom Delegation,
New York, No. 4214

Moscow No. 3663
Cairo No. 2219
Bagdad No. 1134
Beirut No. 751
Damascus No. 611
Jedda No. 508
Amman No. 543
Jerusalem

IMPORTANT

SECRET

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 12609, December 5th:
repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation to the
United Nations, New York, Moscow, Jerusalem, Cairo, Bagdad,
Beirut, Damascus, Jedda, Amman.

I raised the question of Palestine with Mr. Marshall on 4th December, when I handed him an informal note on our plans and intentions regarding the transfer of power in Palestine. I added that the withdrawal of the British Administration and forces was no easy matter. Various arrangements had to be made and we had to make provision for British assets in the country. I laid particular stress on the importance of preventing further illegal immigration, which was bound to lead to bloodshed, since Arabs would undoubtedly be incited to massacre Jews and the situation might then require the use of force. The United States Government might then find themselves required to provide forces and the Soviet Government might press to provide a force themselves. Mr. Marshall admitted that the greatest fear of United States military authorities in this connexion was the presence of a Russian Force in Palestine. I pointed out that if, on the other hand, Jewish immigration ceased until we were ready to hand over the administration to the United Nations Commission in May, it would be possible to proceed in an orderly manner. We should then hope to be able to introduce into Palestine the 16,000 odd illegal immigrants now in Cyprus and we might also be able to provide a port for legal immigration after the United Nations Commission had taken over. We should also be able, in the period between now and May, to stop the infiltration of Jews across the frontiers. I said that this situation could not safely be left to the United Nations Commission, but that an

understanding

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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understanding regarding the problems of the transfer of power was required between the United States Government and ourselves.

2. Mr. Marshall did not believe the Jews would continue illegal immigration, since it must be a dead loss to them and of no pressure value. I questioned this, explaining that I had no confidence in the Jewish Agency, who would probably continue illegal immigration in order to cause incidents and keep their cause alive. I urged that the United States Government should restrain them and, if possible, publicly condemn illegal immigration and urge Jews to be patient. Such a step would incidentally steady the Arabs.

3. Mr. Marshall promised to send a message to Washington in the general sense of my remarks but pointed out that United States Government would be unwilling to take any step which implied that they had responsibility for the Palestine question.

4. You should take the necessary supporting action with State Department.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

MM

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Reference: FO 371/61832

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Registry No. E11632/48/G

159

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Private

CYPHER

✓ 11.20 Am 11/12

Draft. Tel. Washington 12826

SECRET

Dec 11th
Repeat 42/68
U.K.S. N. York

Add to Washington Tel. no. 12826 of Dec. 11th Repeated for info. to U.K.S. N. York, Moscow, Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Teheran, Amman, Jerusalem.

Moscow 3735
Cairo 2247
Bagdad 1155
Beirut 769
Damascus 626
Teheran 518
Amman 558
Jerusalem

My tel. no. 12609 [of Dec. 10: Palestine] para. 3.

Please delete passage "but pointed out" down to "Palestine question" and substitute :-

"He ~~po~~ remarked that the Zionists would be unwilling to make any statement regarding illegal immigration which would imply any responsibility for it on

Cypher

dip. secret

D.S. Beirut Dec 10

Copies

Co.

My. of Defense

Mr. Burke

Cabinet Office

10/12.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

WT.14806/147 75.000 6/47 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 685

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Reference: FO 371 / 61832

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on their part."

PARB

10.12

160

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

161

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

E. 11632/48/G.

Secret.

Cypher/OTP.

DIPLOMATIC (SECRET)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 12826

D. 11.20 a.m. 11th December, 1947.

11th December, 1947.

Repeated to New York (U.K. Delegation) No. 4268

Moscow No. 3755
Cairo No. 2247
Bagdad No. 1155
Beirut No. 769
Damascus No. 626
Jedda No. 518
Amman No. 558
Jerusalem

SECRET.

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 12826 of 11th December. Repeated for information to United Kingdom Delegation New York, Moscow, Cairo, Bagdad, Beirut, Damascus, Jedda, Amman, Jerusalem.

My telegram No. 12609 [of December 10th: Palestine] paragraph 3.

Please delete passage "but pointed out" down to "Palestine question" and substitute:-

"He remarked that the Zionists would be unwilling to make any statement regarding illegal immigration which would imply any responsibility for it on their part".

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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11632 / 48 / 9

162
Purd with
E

9 DEC 1947

(This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher (typex) message and the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British and United States Government Services.)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM FROM COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE.

CYPHER (TYPEX)

R.D.

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 8.15 p.m. 6th Dec., 1947.)

D. No. 954 SECRET.

PALESTINE.

Foreign Secretary gave United States Secretary of State on 4th December an informal note on our plans and intentions regarding transfer of power in Palestine. He said that it should not be supposed that withdrawal of United Kingdom administration and forces was an easy matter. He laid particular stress on importance of stopping any further Jewish illegal immigration. This would be bound to lead to bloodshed since Arabs would undoubtedly be incited to massacre Jews and situation might then require use of force. Mr. Bevin suggested that United States Government might then find themselves required to provide forces and Soviet Government might also press to provide a force.

2. Mr. Marshall said that United States authorities would greatly dislike idea of a Soviet force in Palestine.

3. Mr. Bevin said that if, on other hand, Jewish immigration ceased until we were ready to hand over administration to United Nations Commission in May, we should hope to be able to introduce into Palestine illegal immigrants now in Cyprus and we might also be able to provide a port on Palestine coast for introduction of legal immigrants after taking over by United Nations Commission. We should also be able in period between now and May to stop infiltration of Jews across frontiers. Mr. Bevin said that he considered it was not safe to leave this situation to United Nations Commission but an understanding regarding problems of transfer of power was required between United States and United Kingdom Governments.

4./

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61832

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163

RECEIVED IN C.B.
10 DEC 1947
SENT TO DEP...

- 2 -

4. Mr. Marshall said that he did not believe that Jews would continue with illegal immigration since it could be no gain to them and would be of no "pressure value". Mr. Bevin questioned this, and urged that United States Government should restrain Jewish Agency and, if possible, arrange for a public announcement condemning illegal immigration and exhorting Jews to remain patient. Such a step would have steadying influence on Arabs. Mr. Marshall said that he would communicate with United States State Department in general sense advocated by Mr. Bevin, but he was bound to point out that United States Government would be unwilling to take any step which implied that they had responsibility for Palestine question.

Copy to:-

Foreign Office	Mr. I.A. Kirkpatrick
	Mr. J.P.G. Finch (4)
Colonial Office	Mr. B.A.B. Burrows
	Mr. Trafford Smith

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61832**

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1947

E

E 11641

10 DEC

PALESTINE

164

Registry Number

E11641/48/21

FROM

P. Lawrence

No.

Becharoff

Dated

24/11/47

Received in Registry

2 Dec
10 -

Illegal Immigration Roumanian Port.
Refer to report by 299 FS Section (Cyprus)
re interruption of immigrants ex Paducah
and Harshland. New report further on
active participation of Roumanian Govt in this
trafficking. Roumanian Red Cross and A.T.N.C.
are deeply involved.

Last Paper

E11622

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

- 8, Deighton - BU
- Robertson M.15
- alio 24
- 9/ Whorwood no. 1288
- Tajima no. 300
- W. Yan no. 2205
- Uden 24

(Action completed)

P. Lawrence 21/12

(Index)

[Signature] 21/12/48

Next Paper

E 11670

(Minutes.)

Refer to C.O. } usual
H.F.S. } names

and under P/h to:

Mission }
Police } ref E10676/48/6
Washington }

Non 38/62
Southern Dept

16/12

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Reference: FO 371/61832



British Legation,

Bucharest.

E 11641

2nd December, 1947.

10 DEC

165
END

349/311/47

Dear Department,

You have no doubt seen a copy of the report made by 299 F.S. Section (Cyprus) and dated 25th October, 1947, dealing with the interrogation of emigrants who travelled in the s.s. Northlands and Paducah from Bulgarian ports.

2. The report is a very useful one despite some inaccuracies such as the statement in paragraph 7 that there was no systematic deportation of Jews to Transnistria during the war. In fact, about 150,000 Jews from the Bucovina and Bessarabia and a few from northern Moldavia were sent to camps in that province.

3. What the report does fully confirm is the active participation of the Roumanian Government in this traffic. It has been known for a long time past that the Roumanian Red Cross and the American Joint Distribution Committee were deeply involved in it. Now that both organisations have been taken over by the Communist Party in Roumania, they need no longer have any scruples about public association with the overt organisation of this trade.

4. The reference to military training in Jewish camps in Roumania is interesting. We knew that in certain camps the Jews received physical training and close-combat training but from the documents mentioned in the report under reference we suspect that the instruction given is more than we supposed and is really military training in the full sense of the word. We will investigate this matter and let you know the results.

5. We are afraid that the report errs in the paragraph headed "Documents from Non-Zionist Organisations." The International Red Cross in Roumania has taken a very active part in the organisation and financing of the illegal Jewish traffic. Baron von Steiger, formerly representative in Roumania of the International Red Cross, was especially involved. The Roumanian Red Cross does not use its own funds for this traffic but is financed by the American Joint Distribution Committee's local representative.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,

Foreign Office.



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